



ANNUAL REPORT

2010~2011

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past year has been one of fluctuating fortunes for many participants in the Australian harness racing industry. Anyone associated with racing is aware of the uncertainty faced by connections of horses during their careers and the range of emotions experienced, including unbridled hope, crushing despair and euphoria.



Geoff Want
Chairman

Whilst there have been many highs during the year there have been some devastating lows. Every State of Australia was affected by floods, cyclones, heatwaves or bushfires during the year with the Queensland floods in January claiming the life of former Harness Racing New South Wales steward James Perry. Some horses also were lost in the floods, particularly at Cold Mountain Stud.

Harness racing participants suffered in varying ways from the wild weather in Australia, but all were shocked by the earthquake which destroyed so much life and property in Christchurch. Many in the Australian industry have close personal and business ties with New Zealand, especially in the harness racing stronghold of Christchurch, and rallied to provide support.

This included a \$100,000 donation to the earthquake appeal by HRA, on behalf of all in the Australian industry, with a proportion of this coming from the finalists in the 2011 Inter Dominion championships.

“TRANS TASMAN RIVALRIES WERE CAST ASIDE IN AUCKLAND AS ALL FANS ACKNOWLEDGED NATALIE RASMUSSEN AND HER BRILLIANT CHAMPION BLACKS A FAKE, COMPETING IN HIS SIXTH INTER DOMINION FINAL”

Outstanding Racing

The terrible damage in Christchurch forced the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club to move the championships from Addington to the Alexandra Park facility in Auckland and patrons witnessed some outstanding racing in both the pacing and trotting finals. It is indeed unfortunate that the euphoria over the success of the championships has been dulled by the winner of the pacing division, Smoken Up, returning a positive swab to the anti-inflammatory drug dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

Regardless of the circumstances, the winner of our most prestigious race testing positive to an illegal substance is a sickening blow to all administrators – and participants – who work so hard to protect the integrity of harness racing.

It has rightly been pointed out that the positive swab is a clear indication that the integrity system works, but the fact remains our industry's reputation has been tarnished in the eyes of many people.

The interests of justice must be properly served but it is extremely disappointing it has taken so long for this matter to be dealt with by New Zealand authorities.

The brilliant West Australian pacer Im Themightyquinn was a closing second in the Inter Dominion. The Gary Hall trained Im Themightyquinn had an outstanding season culminating in being declared the Barastoc Australasian Grand Circuit Pacing Champion. The tough Victorian Sundons Gift, trained by Chris Lang, was crowned the Barastoc Australasian Grand Circuit Trotting Champion for the second straight year.

Misfortune dogged Sundons Gift during the Inter Dominion series in Auckland, injury curtailing his campaign for a third Inter Dominion championship. I Can Doosit gave the home fans something to cheer with a fine win in the trotters final.

Trans Tasman rivalries were cast aside in Auckland as all fans acknowledged Natalie Rasmussen and her brilliant champion Blacks A Fake, competing in his sixth Inter Dominion final. He didn't win but he came ever so close, being third across the line in a thrilling contest.

“Blackie” bowed out of the Inter Dominion with the incredible record of six starts in our greatest race for four wins, a second and a third, which could be further improved by the outcome of the Smoken Up inquiry in New Zealand.

Natalie Rasmussen drew the curtain on Blacks A Fake's racing career after a gallant second in the SEW-Eurodrive

Winter Cup at Albion Park in Brisbane in July 2011. Fittingly, the crowd sent him off with a standing ovation.

Arguably the greatest Standardbred to have raced in Australasia, Blacks A Fake was retired after winning more than \$4.5-million in 105 starts, with 72 wins and 24 minor placings.

The Inter Dominion uncertainty aside, Smoken Up was responsible for two of the most outstanding performances of the year on our tracks, both at Tabcorp Park Menangle. The Lance Justice trained horse won the Miracle Mile in November against a quality field, then blitzed similar opposition in the Len Smith Mile in April when he became the first pacer in the southern hemisphere to break the magical 1:50 mark, rating an astonishing 1:48.5.

Positive Signs

Tabcorp Park Menangle was also the venue, in March, for one of the year's highlights away from the racing action, when the New South Wales Harness Racing Club and Harness Racing NSW announced a raft of business initiatives. These covered funding of significant prizemoney increases and plans for the further development of the Menangle facility.

The announcement followed the Club's sale of Harold Park to developers for \$187-million. The final race meeting at the iconic inner Sydney track in December provided the opportunity for thousands of harness racing fans to bid an emotional farewell to Harold Park.

In another positive sign for our industry, Harness Racing Victoria is continuing to develop Tabcorp Park Melton and has exciting plans for the future of the precinct.

The exciting development plans for Menangle and Melton, and a number of other initiatives around the nation, are a positive sign for our industry but also tend to mask some of the critical issues. Despite its economic standing and appeal to many thousands of enthusiasts, harness racing is losing relevance in the Australian sporting landscape and there are pressing funding and governance issues which need to be addressed.

Industry Funding

The leakage of wagering turnover from the licensed pari-mutuel operators in each State to corporate bookmakers and betting exchanges has continued in the past year, although the industry has had moderate success in extracting a fee from some operators.

At the time of writing this report the results of two court cases which will have a profound affect on industry funding, were eagerly awaited. The full bench of the Federal Court ruled in favour of Harness Racing NSW and Racing NSW in November 2010, in the latest round of the legal battle over the New South Wales race fields legislation. Betfair and Sportsbet were later granted leave to appeal to the High Court, which occurred in late August 2011.

Harness Racing Victoria is also involved in Federal Court action over race fields legislation, whereby Sportsbet is challenging the validity of both the Victorian Act and the 1.5 per cent turnover fee imposed by HRV. The case began in Darwin in March 2011, and was finalised in August when the judge reserved his decision.

The deregulation of the Australian wagering market in recent years has been achieved with scant regard being paid to the well-being of the racing industry. Advocates of deregulation have often used British racing as an example of how Australia's funding model should work. They might care to note that in recent months British administrators have been unable to finalise the fixture list for 2012 because of grave concerns over funding, which could cause drastic cuts to prizemoney and race meetings.

British thoroughbred racing's primary source of income is a levy scheme, whereby bookmakers pay 10% of gross profits. The total from the levy for 2011 is forecast to be A\$89-million, about half what it was three years ago. The drastic reduction has been brought about by the major wagering companies moving their operations offshore to avoid paying the levy.

Harness Racing Australia advocates federal legislation as the only effective means of dealing with this critical funding issue.

The leakage of wagering revenue was dealt with extensively in the 2010 report of the Australian Government Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Gambling. HRA strongly supported the Commission's recommendation to develop a national funding model for the racing industry, underpinned by national legislation.

HRA has continued to advocate this approach in its submission to the Joint Select Committee On Gambling Reform, lodged in July 2011, and will lobby federal and State authorities on the issue at every opportunity.

HRA also submitted to the Joint Select Committee that wagering must continue to be exempt from the Interactive Gambling Act 2001, but that steps must be taken to strengthen the Act to prevent exploitation by wagering operators who were not approved by Australian regulators.

Internet Service Providers should be forced to block access to the sites operated by unapproved operators and the Act should also have provisions to prohibit financial institutions from processing transactions from such sites. Similar legislation has existed in the USA for the past five years.

Whilst the IGA currently provides a mechanism for regulations to be made relating to financial agreements involving illegal gambling services, to date nothing has been done to draft any regulations.

The HRA submission also supported the establishment of a national gambling regulator, with powers to license betting providers and ensure adherence to strict integrity, problem gambling, harm minimisation and financial measures. Racing bodies however must retain the right to determine which betting providers are permitted to bet on their product and what product fee they pay the industry in return.

Betting on harness racing in Australia exceeded \$2-billion in 2010 with estimates that another \$600-million was placed with corporate bookmakers and betting exchanges. There is still much work to be done – primarily by State and federal legislators – to ensure racing gets its rightful financial return.

Industry Issues

We can lobby for legislative change to help resolve the wagering funding problems, but there are other areas where decisive action should be taken by administrators to address critical industry issues.

Administrators must explore ways to make the harness racing product more appealing from a wagering perspective, and need also to take an aggressive approach to growing the fan base. Competition for the leisure dollar will continue to become tougher and harness racing needs to develop a new generation of fans and broaden its support base.

A positive step towards achieving this would be to change the governance model for harness racing, akin to what has happened with other sporting industries in recent years. I have no desire for HRA to usurp the roles or powers of clubs and State controlling bodies, but there are aspects of the harness racing industry which would benefit from a more unified, national approach.

Sports such as the four football codes have encountered significant growth since abandoning petty parochialism in favour of a dedicated national approach to rules and marketing.

In the past decade there have been two extensive reviews of HRA's governance structure, by Laysell Consulting in 2003 and the Incorporation Working Party chaired by Ross Cooper in 2007. The latter resulted in a name change for the organisation and the expansion of the Executive to provide a representative from each Member State, but other recommendations were ignored.

One recommendation was for the national body to mandate rules, similar to the powers of the Australian Racing Board and Greyhounds Australasia. Two States rejected this on the grounds that it somehow undermined their "sovereignty" – a concern that the representatives of their States on both the ARB and GA apparently do not share! The result is that we continue to have the ridiculous situation where States can impose local rules.

Marketing is another area that would benefit considerably from a co-ordinated national approach. The first national market research exercise conducted for harness racing was undertaken more than two years ago, with the objective of diagnosing the present and future health of our product.

It was an extremely worthwhile project and there have been numerous benefits flow from it, but marketing remains a largely neglected concept in much of our industry. There are few people in harness racing dedicated to marketing, unlike similar sports industries. It is not uncommon for similar organisations to have as many as seven to 10 people dedicated to marketing, comprising promotions, sponsorship, brand awareness, event management, membership and media/communications.

There are some very good and enthusiastic people in harness racing, who need to be encouraged to develop a national marketing plan which will be supported by all members. This should include making progress with the media and communications project which has been discussed in several forums in recent years.

We need to get closure on some of these matters, to determine a path and get on with the task of implementing the many good ideas which have been put forward. An early project should be turning Trots TV, launched by HRNSW in July, or live streaming by HRV in August, into a national undertaking.

These are commendable initiatives which could provide excellent exposure for all HRA members and enable the industry to better communicate with fans and participants.

Working Together

HRA members demonstrated during the year how effectively they can work together by undertaking a lobbying campaign with State and federal politicians to oppose the proposal for voluntary vaccination of horses against equine influenza. The lobbying, and much determined work by HRA chief executive Andrew Kelly, were key factors in the lengthy campaign for the equine industry to become a signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA), which occurred in March 2011.

HRA was prepared to sign the EADRA prior to the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza, but unfortunately the debate was hijacked by political squabbling, uncertainty in some recreational equine groups and a push by thoroughbred breeders for voluntary vaccination.

The Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel, which was established to determine the current health and trends of the Standardbred breeding industry and to develop a plan to stimulate future growth of breeding and ownership of broodmares and racehorses, submitted its report to the HRA Executive in July 2011 after almost a year of painstaking work.

My congratulations to Panel chairman John Bagshaw and members Glenn Burns, David Sharpe and Harvey Kaplan, as well as secretary Andrew Kelly, for their exhaustive deliberations which have resulted in a comprehensive and innovative report. It is an outstanding body of work which I have no doubt will serve our industry well, although there will be opposition to some of the recommendations.

The report has been released for industry comment, after which the Executive will consider how to proceed with implementing the recommendations.

Acknowledgements

There are many other projects and issues which are deserving of mention but these will be covered elsewhere in the annual report. 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.

Andrew Kelly is an outstanding chief executive and leads his small but dedicated and professional team in the Melbourne head office in exemplary fashion. All are deserving of thanks, along with HRA's legal counsel, Dean Cooper and integrity consultant, John Shreck.

Many thanks also to the members of the Executive for their contribution and support and to all those people who give so generously of their time to serve on the various HRA committees.

HRA also has an excellent working relationship with Harness Racing New Zealand. The two organisations have much in common and face similar issues, and the regular exchange of information between them is extremely beneficial. My thanks to all involved, especially HRNZ chairman Pat O'Brien and the chief executive, Edward Rennell.

Harness racing is a wonderful industry which provides a livelihood for many thousands of people and entertainment and wagering opportunities for many thousands more. It is beholden on everyone involved in harness racing to protect the integrity of the industry and for administrators to address the regulatory and marketing challenges we face.

If we do, the future will be bright indeed.



Geoff Want
Chairman



CEO'S REPORT

I wrote in the 2009 Annual Report that:

“The racing industry as a whole has entered uncharted waters. Led by the uncertainty of future funding models due to the erosion of long-established pari-mutuel links, challenges are also provided by way of shifting consumer wagering patterns, contracting participation numbers, legislative amendments, a thirst for more broadcast product (Australian and International) and community expectations regarding animal welfare.”



Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive

While in many respects the same is true today, the issues are no longer unfamiliar and it is opportune to reflect on the advancements being made on several fronts to tackle these challenges.

As the courts currently determine the landscape of industry funding for the States, Harness Racing Australia (HRA) maintains that federal legislation is the only effective means of dealing with this critical funding issue. This could be achieved via uniform State legislation or unexpected new Commonwealth legislation, but it is the Interactive Gambling Act (IGA) which may hold the key to federal regulation as it deals with on-line wagering activity which has seen rapid growth due to new technologies and advertising saturation.

To this end, HRA remains very active. The racing industry's unique relationship with wagering means that the views of HRA on gambling reform are predicated on ensuring our industry is sustainable and continues to provide meaningful employment for the tens of thousands of Australians who depend on the industry for their livelihoods.

The full Submission can be found at: <http://www.harness.org.au/hra/pdfs/HRA-JSComm-Gambling-Ref-0711.pdf>

These views will also be forcefully advocated to the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy who have recently announced a review of the operation of the IGA.

HRA has also established a formal working group with Sky Racing to address the shift in consumer wagering patterns. Inclusive of State representatives from the three pari-mutuel pools, this group is looking at the impact the introduction of new channels and content is having on customer behavior and industry returns; assessing new bet types; migrating sports punters to racing; identifying ways to improve the quality of harness racing broadcast presentation; product development; and greater exploitation of new media. There is much work to be done in this space, but given the interdependent relationship between Sky Racing and the States, national marketing plans will be reliant upon breaking new ground on these issues.

The thirst for broadcast content has also found HRA working behind the scenes with international bodies to build relationships and encourage Sky Racing to import harness racing product which does not interfere with existing Australasian product. The 2010 US Breeders Crown and 2011 Elitloppet were high profile examples, but it was the 15-week Meadowlands (New Jersey) trial in late 2010 which highlighted the opportunities for wagering growth international content brings. It is hoped that the success of this trial, along with the establishment by HRA of closer ties with major North American tracks, will ensure consistent North American content well into the future.

HRA ESTABLISHED AN INDEPENDENT AUSTRALASIAN STANDARDBRED BREEDING PANEL IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS THE DECLINE IN BREEDING ACTIVITY.

A recent submission from HRA focused the attention of the Australian Government's Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform's on the following issues:

- Integrity is paramount in the racing industry – other sports must lift their standards
- A national regulatory regime for gambling is supported
- Wagering must continue to be exempt from the Interactive Gambling Act 2001
- Racing must not be disadvantaged vis a vis the other sports given its strong integrity standards, particularly in respect of 'in the run' or 'spot' betting
- Gambling advertising and pricing/odds updates on sports should be limited to dedicated channels where strict integrity measures can be enforced

The issue of contracting participation numbers is never far from the minds of harness racing administrators and with this in mind, the HRA established an independent Australasian Standardbred Breeding Panel in order to understand and address the decline in breeding activity. The Panel's report will be explored in greater detail elsewhere in this document, but it is clear that the breeding industry is currently operating under extreme pressure, with steps needed to be taken to ease costs, while encouraging and motivating breeding activity.

This breeding report also highlights the fact that the whole industry must operate by symbiosis and not in separate silos. Steps taken to assist breeders need to be balanced with achieving the other desirable commercial outcomes including maximum field sizes, increased wagering and returns to stakeholders at all levels.



From an industry participant perspective, HRA also continues to prioritise safety. It is through the rigorous testing of gear and equipment, rules of racing, risk mitigation strategies and a strong commitment by State Controlling Bodies and Clubs, which leads to success in this area and minimises insurance premiums. The Industry Insurance Program is jealously guarded by HRA and highly sought by insurers, evidenced by the competitive tender process which unfolded during the year – with no less than seven companies vying for the program.

After careful consideration, the incumbent, Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) were awarded the program for a further three-year term. At the completion of this term, JLT will have held the business for 12 years. The new program will not only build on the past successes, but focus on strategies for improvement to reduce Club liability claims and OH&S awareness.

Safety of course is not just about our people, it's equally as important for our horses. The development of important animal welfare and equine health initiatives has been another dominant focus for HRA during the year. As community expectations continue to rise, the industry needs to accept and adapt to increased scrutiny in order to maintain management of issues rather than let outside influences run the agenda.

HRA's commitment to animal welfare is manifest in many ways. While the highest profile issue in recent times has been the moderation of whip use, in many ways, the important unanimous adoption of a Horse Welfare Standard and the implementation of the National Injury & Incident Database provide the best management tools for these issues into the future.

These initiatives are complemented by improved prohibited substance rules which include a number of animal husbandry advancements (introduced in October 2010 following an exhaustive review), and the holistic approach to promoting the Standardbred breed outside of racing – including the Outplacement Program.

The Standardbred is a wonderfully versatile and responsive animal which is underrated by most equine enthusiasts outside of the harness racing industry. HRA is committed to promoting and providing greater opportunities for the Standardbred as a breed and not a one dimensional racing animal. To assist, we are well down the track to establishing a non-racing studbook, so Standardbreds who do not register for the purpose of racing, can participate in other competitive equine pursuits.

Another important strategy has been promoting the versatility of the breed at equine events and shows. Standardbred demonstrations, including showing an ability to canter, have impressed a number of high profile horse organisations and audiences who had previously thought Standardbreds a racing animal only. Work is also continuing to establish a national accreditation scheme for the re-training of horses after their racing career, with placement via supply agreements with peak body organisations.

Equine Disease control is another important animal welfare issue for which the HRA continue to monitor, advocate and represent the industry via the various Commonwealth and State Departments, Animal Health Australia and consultative groups.

It was satisfying that the four peak horse organisations in Australia signed the long awaited Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) during the year, after more than 10-years of HRA advocating this position. Signing this agreement, along with complementary Horse Disease Levy Bill legislation is a significant and important milestone as the industry is now protected with agreed plans and cost sharing arrangements in the event of exotic equine disease outbreaks in the future. Almost as importantly, the passage of EADRA has saved our industry from the massive costs and relentless administration of Equine Influenza (EI) vaccination. Further, our trade with New Zealand remains unencumbered with quarantine time and cost restrictions.

The future of Australia's quarantine arrangements for high risk imports such as horses also remains under a





cloud. While on the surface it appears the Commonwealth will maintain responsibility for facilities, no definitive measures post the closure of Eastern Creek in December 2015 have yet been announced. With the Quarantine Act and Import Risk Assessment (IRA) both being reviewed in 2012, HRA will continue to advocate for change, particularly with regards to the costs, length of time spent post-arrival, invasive testing of prepubertal fillies and surveillance measures for pregnant mares.

Of course quarantine is only one aspect of biosecurity as the past year has highlighted the difficulties of disease control to combat zoonotic diseases and mosquito borne viruses. Tragically, a number of Standardbreds died during the year from Arbovirus, while the threat of Hendra is ever present and more widely spread than has previously been the case. HRA continues to collaborate with relevant organisations and experts on these topics in order to provide timely information and updates to the industry. Fortunately, multimillion dollar funding has been found to assist with Hendra research and the fast tracking of an equine vaccine.

Research is an area often overlooked by the harness racing industry, but during the year HRA joined the University of Newcastle in a partnership application for an ARC Linkage Grant for stallion fertility research. This research is aimed at identifying a number of efficiencies in the breeding industry, as well as improving the transportation of semen – including, hopefully, at ambient temperature. If successful, the research will span three-years and generate savings across the entire breeding sector.

In closing the curtain on 2010/11, I wish to acknowledge the generosity of sponsors across all industry sectors, but I must commend the special support of Gerard O'Brien and the team at Ridley AgriProducts who, through the Barastoc brand are the naming rights sponsors of the Barastoc Grand Circuit until 2011.

The continued success and respect HRA enjoys is also dependent on a large number of people who contribute so willingly to the national harness racing industry. I sincerely thank the numerous HRA committee members, led by their respective Chairmen in John Schreck (Chairmen of Stewards), John Doherty (Prohibited Substance Review Panel), Peter Bourke (Equine Breeding, Animal Welfare & Registration), Dean Cooper (National Rules) and John Bagshaw (Australian Standardbred Breeding Industry Panel) for their significant contribution, wise counsel and patience throughout the year.

I also thank the HRA Members and their respective Chief Executives for their continued support, guidance and confidence for innovation given the immense challenges of their own organisations.

As mentioned last year, the business of harness racing rarely stops, making the dedication and continued commitment of the HRA Executive even more remarkable. Again I offer my deepest thanks to you all, and in particular I acknowledge HRA Chairman, Geoff Want for providing outstanding support and sharing his immeasurable knowledge and experience.

Finally, to all the staff at HRA – thank you. Thank you for your tireless efforts and complete commitment to the harness racing industry.

So, on the back of an exciting and progressive year for HRA in 2010/11 the year ahead will again challenge not only HRA, but all harness racing administrators to find the opportunities which exist within the many threats facing the industry.

HRA looks forward to continuing to work with, and represent, members in appropriate forums to not only build on existing programs, but to address the critical issues of wagering product fees; Sky Racing's multi-channel and scheduling impacts; punter behaviours; and growing the fan base – there is much to be done in these areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Kelly'.

Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive



THE YEAR THAT WAS

After 30 years in the St. Kilda road business precinct Harness Racing Australia packed up and made a move to a new office located in the Racing Victoria Building in Flemington. The move, which took place in October 2010, corresponded with traditionally the busiest time of the year for HRA.

While staff were busy packing boxes, dismantling computer gear and doing the customary clean out that usually accompanies a move they were all still able to keep the office running. Things like the production of the stud book, running of the Annual General Meeting and updating all of the year end statistical reports were still completed on time.

There were a few teething problems that were to be expected but most of these have been ironed out. We still have the occasional issue with the new phone system and we take a few calls that are meant for the Optus service team, but these things are slowly being sorted out.

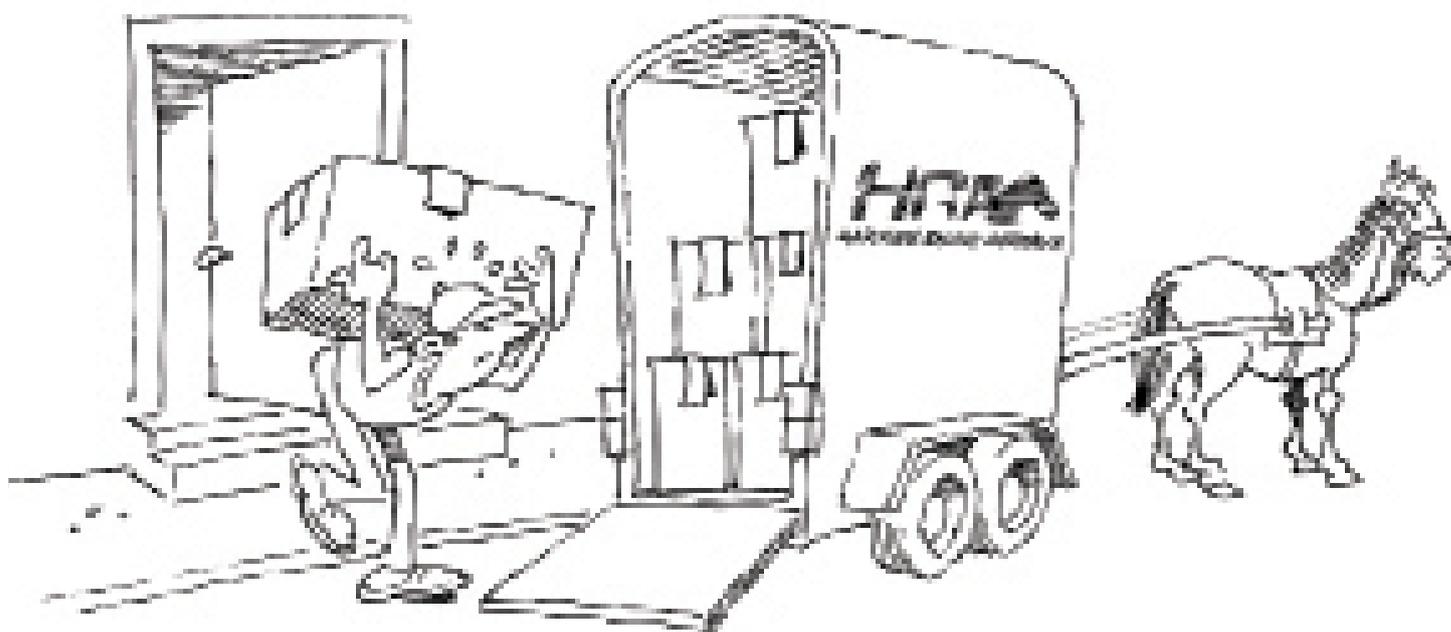
The new office, which is larger than the previous St. Kilda Road office, will allow for a purpose built library to be fitted out as well as more room for the staff. We are also able to use the Racing Victoria Office facilities which include a number of meeting rooms as well as a fully equipped board room. Having a café on site is also a bonus.

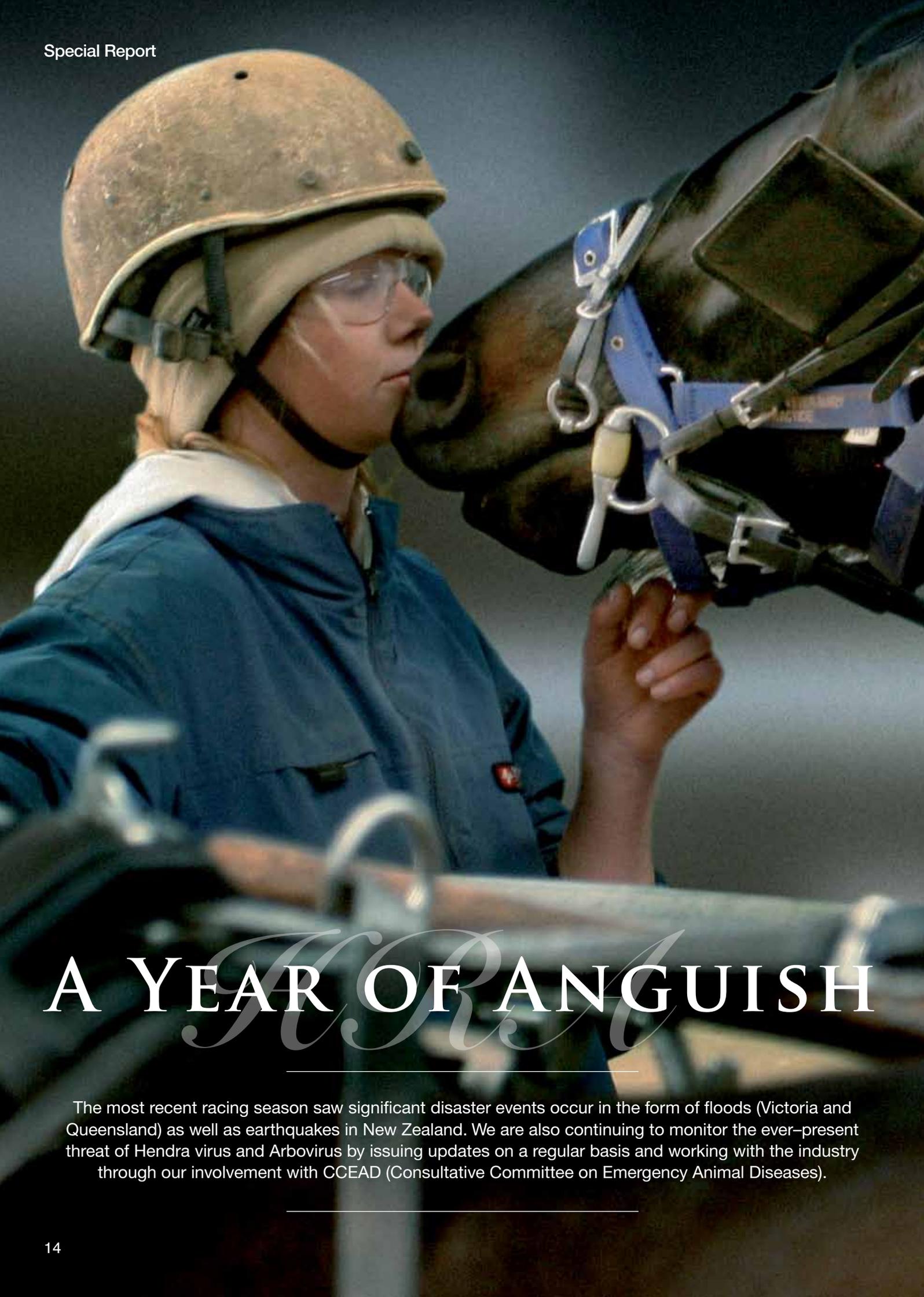
Whilst it was sad to leave a location that was home for such a long period of time the benefits far outweigh staying. To be able to construct a library and put all of the books we have on display and allow people to utilize this resource will be a real benefit. Whilst this is still not completed we are hoping to have this ready by the end of this calendar year. Part of this will allow us to fully catalogue all of the books and magazines that we have on hand as well as sort through all of our historic photos. It's a big job but one that will be well worth it in the end.

Just in case you had not caught up the new address and contact details are:

Harness Racing Australia
Level One, 400 Epsom Road
Flemington Vic. 3031
Phone: 03 9227 3000
Fax: 03 9227 3030

“WHILE STAFF WERE BUSY PACKING BOXES, DISMANTLING COMPUTER GEAR AND DOING THE CUSTOMARY CLEAN OUT THAT USUALLY ACCOMPANIES A MOVE THEY WERE STILL ABLE TO KEEP THE OFFICE RUNNING”





A YEAR OF ANGUISH

The most recent racing season saw significant disaster events occur in the form of floods (Victoria and Queensland) as well as earthquakes in New Zealand. We are also continuing to monitor the ever-present threat of Hendra virus and Arbovirus by issuing updates on a regular basis and working with the industry through our involvement with CCEAD (Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases).

The floods caused havoc and resulted in the loss of horses, feed, fences and pasture in Victoria and Queensland and affected the livelihoods of many in the harness racing industry as well as associated communities. In Charlton (Victoria) the supermarket of horse trainer John Tormey was completely inundated by flood water twice in a matter of only a few weeks.

There was also the well published rescue of staff from the Cold Mountain Stud in Queensland where rapidly rising water trapped a number of horses and had staff stranded on the roof of a stabling complex where they had to share the space with a number of angry and agitated snakes.

The industry was quick to rally with a number of fund raising activities organized as well as on ground assistance in the form of working bees to reconstruct fences, clean out houses and give support where it could.

Sadly if we thought that the disasters were over worse was to come...

Nothing could prepare us for the events of 22nd February 2011 when, at 12:50 local time, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck the city of Christchurch in New Zealand resulting in significant damage and loss of life. There had been a smaller quake in September 2010 but nothing in the scale of this 'big one'.

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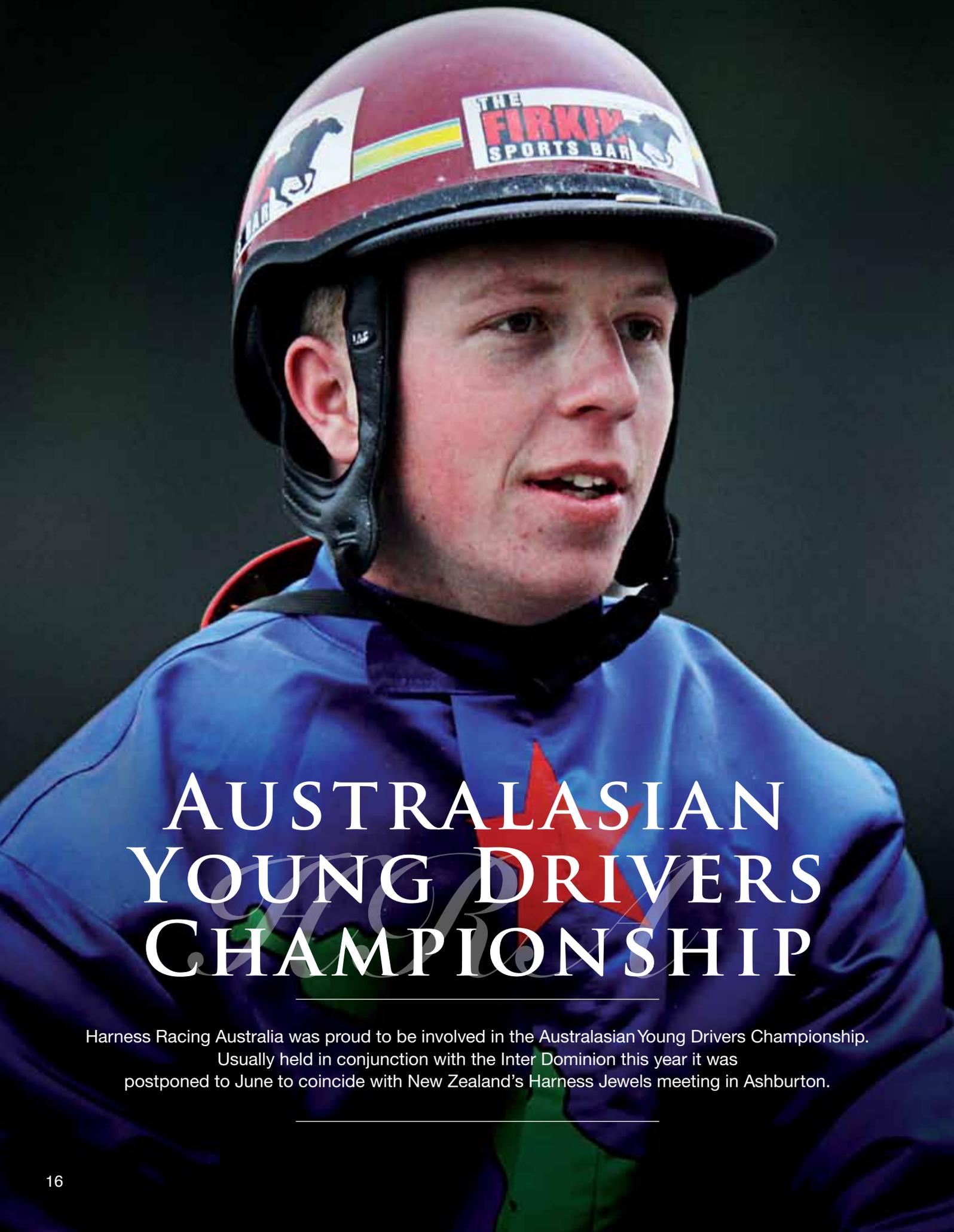
The quake struck right at the time when many Australians were in Christchurch at the PGG Wrightson horse sales and enjoying a summer break in the beautiful South Island city. It was also the time when many people were finalizing their travel arrangements for the Inter Dominion that was scheduled for Christchurch in April.

At Harness Racing Australia and through the Inter Dominion Event Committee tough decisions were made that resulted in the Inter Dominion being shifted to Auckland where it still retained a significant Christchurch flavour with the colours of Red and Black being dominant. All of the Australian trainers contacted by HRA that had horses nominated for the series stressed their support and determination to compete.

Harness Racing Australia, through significant fundraising initiatives, were able to donate almost \$100,000 to the NZ Earthquake appeal. The first was in the form of a direct donation from our reserves, the second was in the strong commitment of Australian contestants to donate a percentage of stakemoney won whilst the final amount was from conducting a charity online auction that coincided with the running of the Inter Dominion Trotting and Pacing Grand finals.

The auction was of signed racing silks of all of the competing horses and trainers and this generated significant interest on both sides of the Tasman. The final amount raised was \$19,500 with the top price being \$4,500 for the colours of Blacks a Fake.





AUSTRALASIAN YOUNG DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Harness Racing Australia was proud to be involved in the Australasian Young Drivers Championship. Usually held in conjunction with the Inter Dominion this year it was postponed to June to coincide with New Zealand's Harness Jewels meeting in Ashburton.

The event, which was conducted over three race meetings and seven races at Forbury, Addington and Ashburton clearly demonstrated that there is an abundance of young talent in Australasia. The series was eventually won by Joshua Dickie. Well done Joshua!

There was plenty of exciting racing action along the way and all the drivers were well looked after by staff from Harness Racing New Zealand as well as the sponsor, Lone Star restaurant from Christchurch.

Both Nathan Ford and Ashlee Siejka drove winners in the series and all of the drivers were to be congratulated in the way that they handled themselves both on and off the track.

One moment to remember occurred while we were waiting to go to Ashburton when a 5.5 aftershock shook our accommodation and gave us all a reminder of what the Christchurch people are living with on a regular basis. There was certainly no delay in boarding the team bus on that particular morning.

I know that the Aussies are keen to take the Kiwis on again next year on home soil.

“BOTH NATHAN FORD AND ASHLEE SIEJKA DROVE WINNERS
IN THE SERIES AND ALL OF THE DRIVERS WERE TO BE
CONGRATULATED IN THE WAY THAT THEY HANDLED THEMSELVES
BOTH ON AND OFF THE TRACK”



The Australian Representatives were (PICTURED): Chantel Turpin (Queensland) Jake Webster (South Australia) Ellen Tormey (Victoria) Nathan Ford (Tasmania) Ashlee Siejka (New South Wales) Justin Prentice (Western Australia)

The New Zealand young drivers were: Zac Butcher (North Island) Joshua Dickie (North Island) Dexter Dunn (South Island) Matthew Williamson (South Island)



WORLD DRIVING USA

The World Driving Championships, which ran from 31st July to 5th August saw Canadian superstar reinsman Jody Jamieson take home the coveted prize. Jody is no stranger to being crowned world champion having won the prize previously in 2001.

The championships which take in 20 races spread over five North American venues and six days are a true test of the driver's skills and tactical ability. All draws are done on a random basis and the races were a mix of pacing and trotting events.

This year saw competitors from Europe, Australasia and North America take the challenge to see who would be crowned World Driving Champion for 2011 in the event hosted by the United States Trotting Association.

Of the 10 individual drivers, six drove winners over the five days which highlighted the collective talent. It was on the fourth day that the championship was busted wide open when Jamieson made his move, winning three of the four races on offer. He followed this up on the final day with a double to win by six points from American ace Cory Callahan with Spain's surprise packet Juan Riera-Rossello two points further adrift in third placing. Over the course of the five days Jamieson won six of the 20 events on offer to show his dominance.

“IT WAS ON THE FOURTH DAY THAT THE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS BUSTED WIDE OPEN WHEN JAMIESON MADE HIS MOVE, WINNING THREE OF THE FOUR RACES ON OFFER”

The drivers included Denmark's Birger Jorgensen, the defending champion, Swede Bjorn Goop well known for his Elitlopp triumphs as well as German Michael Nimczyk, Italy's champion Enrico Bellei, Frenchman Frank Nivard and Spaniard Juan Riera-Rossello. From Australia we had Chris Lewis who has driven over 4,000 winners and New Zealand was represented by young gun Dexter Dunn, who, just prior to departing had set a new national record for wins in a New Zealand racing season. Dexter was also the youngest of all drivers to compete.

The first race of the championship, at Harrahs Chester Casino and racetrack, was won by American Cory Callahan, after he was a late call up replacement for Jason Bartlett who was injured in a car accident in the lead up to the event. During the championships it was established that Cory was an early race specialist, winning the first race on three of the five days of racing. Fittingly Bartlett returned to race driving on the final night of the championships.

New Zealand's Dexter Dunn, who had led after day two, finished fourth after not being able to add to his winner that he drove on that day. Australian, Chris Lewis, who was dogged with poor draws and long shot horses drove well throughout the championship but was not able to snare any winners and finished in 10th position.

All of the races were conducted in great spirit and levels of competitiveness and the camaraderie of all participants was evident throughout the entire event. At the conclusion of the racing program all drivers were guests of the United States Trotting Association and attended the Hambletonian meeting at The Meadowlands before making their way back to their respective countries.

The next world championships will be held in 2013 in Europe with Australia likely to hold them in 2015.

WORLD STATISTICS:

At the recent World Trotting Conference (WTC) a number of statistics were tabled and Australia, as a Harness Racing Nation, figures prominently in these.

Did you know that Australia has:

- The 3rd highest number of registered stallions;
- The 3rd highest number of mares served
- Is 2nd in the number of licence holders;
- Has the highest average betting turnover per race;
- The 3rd highest number of foals registered;
- Conducts the 3rd highest number of races

Putting all of this into context there are 24 racing nations that provided statistics to the WTC with the big two being the USA and France. So when you consider the countries who rank behind Australia include Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and the like it is good to see that we hold such a prominent place in the world of Harness Racing.



NATIONAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

In May Harness Racing Australia started the tender process to determine our insurer for the upcoming three year period. The decision to go to tender is to ensure that we continue to get the best possible insurance cover for our participants and clubs. A strong emphasis was placed on the ability to be innovative and look at new products. Cost was also a determining factor.

FOR A NUMBER OF COMPELLING REASONS THE DECISION WAS MADE TO REMAIN WITH THE CURRENT PROVIDER, JLT SPORT, AND CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP THAT NOW SPANS ALMOST 10 YEARS.

At the completion of the tender process there were seven expressions of interest lodged. Each of these companies expressed a strong desire to be associated with the Harness Racing brand as they see this as a positive sporting image and an organization that has worked extremely hard on insurance related matters.

At the completion of the initial phase of selection a short list of three companies were invited to put forward further claims as to why they would be the most suitable provider. All three made very strong presentations and left us with a difficult decision to make.

For a number of compelling reasons the decision was made to remain with the current provider, JLT sport, and continue the relationship that now spans almost 10 years. JLT have a very good understanding of our business as well as the participants and have been able to produce a very

good financial outcome for the industry as well as introduce a number of new and exciting products that offer good value for the industry. We believe that this will maximise the value to the industry.

Keep an eye on the website for updates and details of the insurance cover and changes as we continue to work with JLT to enhance the cover, introduce new initiatives and make the website more user friendly to assist in the claims process.

The National Insurance Program covers all registered trainers and drivers (and stable hands in some States). It is levied as part of licence fees. All States, except for NSW, are covered under the national program. This also includes having cover for visiting reins-persons from New Zealand.

GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

During the year HRA tested six sulkies and three new wheel models. All of these were passed and placed on the approved gear listing. In some instances there were modifications that were required to ensure that this new gear met our sulky and wheel standards.

HRA takes the testing and safety process very seriously and there is little doubt that we have some of the safest conditions anywhere in the world for our competitors. In this upcoming year we will continue to conduct testing and will work with the industry to maintain and further enhance our levels of safety.

In conjunction with Human Impact Engineering we are looking at vest and helmet standards and are starting to work on an injury matrix to determine what injuries occur, where they occur and then look to introduce practices to reduce this risk.

We will continue to ensure that we provide one of the safest harness racing regimes in the world.





STANDARD BRED RETRAINING

Last year our feature article discussed bias against the Standardbred and the breed's struggle for acceptance in main stream equine circles but especially in the showing arena. In the 12 months since the article was written Harness Racing Australia has continued to work with the State Standardbred Associations and the other lead equestrian organizations to de mystify the Standardbred.

HRA is keen to demonstrate that a Standardbred horse's career does not necessarily end when it steps off the race track for the final time. In fact we are eager to show that retirement from racing is merely the opening of another door for these incredible horses. Those who work with the Standardbred horse readily recognize its fantastic attributes, including but not limited to exceptional loyalty, a placid temperament and love of human company, and an exceptional aptitude and eagerness to learn. They are well suited to a diverse range of equine pursuits, be it riding for pleasure, pony and/or adult riding club, eventing, endurance or even carriage driving. Some have even gone on to make their mark in the mounted police forces both here and overseas!

HRA has had many discussions with Equestrian Australia (EA) and facilitated a visit by CEO Grant Baldock and Committee person Nicki Rose to prominent New South Wales trainer Paul Fitzpatrick's Cawdor complex in May this year. Our guests were suitably impressed by the training methods employed and the all round attributes of the horses they saw put through their "paces". Interestingly both representatives were surprised to see that very few of Paul's horses are hopped in track work – rather most gallop in training to maintain their fitness. Nicki in particular commented that the

Pieta has been working with retired and/or failed race horses for a number of years and achieved impressive results through her acclaimed re training and re housing program.

The featured horse "Nick" had been off the track for a mere 4 months, yet under Pieta's guidance demonstrated leading, lunging, riding, trotting and cantering. Again Nicki from EA was very taken by what she saw!

HRA is building a strong relationship with EA and continues to work co-operatively alongside both the national equine body and various State Standardbred associations.

One of our most immediate priorities is the development of accredited training standards for ridden Standardbreds which will set minimum requirements for horses re homed for pony club and other pleasure pursuits.

Over the past 12 months, Standardbreds have made special appearances at a number of shows and significant horse events, including an EA event at Camden Bicentennial Park.

This opportunity arose as a direct result of our educational tour with Nicki and Grant and the feedback given to Pieta on the day was extremely encouraging.

OUR GUESTS WERE SUITABLY IMPRESSED BY THE TRAINING METHODS EMPLOYED AND THE ALL ROUND ATTRIBUTES OF THE HORSES THEY SAW PUT THROUGH THEIR "PACES".

horses had a tremendous natural gait and one in particular would be most welcome at her property!

This was an extremely positive and very worthwhile exercise. HRA is aware that many detractors have a perception that Standardbred horses can only really run when hopped and their only natural and truly fluent gait is a pace. We have been working diligently and with purpose to break down and hopefully, ultimately dispel that myth.

After visiting the Fitzpatrick family, we were treated – and it genuinely was a treat - to a demonstration by Pieta Manning from Kalimbah Standardbreds.

HRA is now working co-operatively with Barastoc to showcase Standardbreds at Equitana in Sydney in November 2011.

Equitana is recognised as the nation's premier horse event; Standardbreds will be featured in the breed village, as a part of the Barastoc site and present a ridden display.

HRA is committed to further nurturing its existing partnerships while building exciting new relationships in the coming year with a view to promoting Standardbreds and cultivating opportunities which ensure there is indeed life after harness racing for our horses.





NATIONAL STATISTICS

Wagering Summary: 2004/2005 - 2010/2011

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Australia Total Wagering	\$1,855,917,017	\$1,847,795,444	\$1,963,601,713	\$1,747,292,165	\$1,997,501,561	\$1,999,606,294	\$1,997,582,106
% Change by year	2.35%	-0.44%	6.27%	-11.02%	14.32%	0.11%	-0.1%

2010/2011 Top 10 Starters - by Dollars Earned

Name	Sex	Starts	Wins	Aust Season Prizemoney	Season Best Mile Rate	*Career Prizemoney
IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	GELDING	11	6	\$619,715	1:56.7MS	\$1,763,046
SMOKEN UP NZ	GELDING	13	9	\$547,151	1:48.5MS	\$2,345,761
MR FEELGOOD USA	ENTIRE	8	5	\$467,267	1:52.9MS	\$2,895,333
SUSHI SUSHI (3YO)	GELDING	11	11	\$399,680	1:54.1MS	\$880,416
STUNIN CULLEN NZ	ENTIRE	2	2	\$367,706	1:57.3MS	\$1,359,031
HAS THE ANSWERS	GELDING	45	18	\$360,270	1:53.0MS	\$1,089,054
WASHAKIE NZ	GELDING	22	10	\$302,871	1:50.5MS	\$1,117,063
BLACKS A FAKE	GELDING	19	11	\$266,704	1:53.7MS	\$4,535,438
IMA SPICEY LOMBO	MARE	15	6	\$259,205	1:55.1MS	\$438,686
THREE OVER THREE (2YO)	COLT	10	6	\$245,705	1:56.2MS	\$245,705

* Career Prizemoney as at 31st August 2010 - includes Aust and Overseas performances

2010/2011 Top 10 Sires - by Dollars Earned

Sire	Aust				2YO				3YO			
	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ	288	181	562	\$4,440,449	13	6	14	\$352,051	45	25	76	\$511,700
ART MAJOR USA	264	164	443	\$3,664,511	111	54	114	\$1,406,947	72	50	150	\$1,239,969
VILLAGE JASPER USA	408	235	561	\$3,556,188	30	11	21	\$333,533	76	34	87	\$444,850
BETTORS DELIGHT USA	195	122	363	\$3,041,789	39	18	40	\$423,770	127	84	258	\$2,155,740
COURAGE UNDER FIRE NZ	215	140	419	\$3,020,934	11	6	11	\$113,803	20	11	43	\$340,953
MACH THREE CA	176	120	347	\$2,956,017	35	18	53	\$921,872	25	13	40	\$341,104
ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA	390	205	458	\$2,765,164	39	13	24	\$199,086	56	32	63	\$366,049
LIVE OR DIE USA	275	149	366	\$2,665,726	24	10	23	\$250,104	27	12	37	\$192,331
LIFE SIGN USA	286	148	334	\$2,099,183	62	15	18	\$160,953	94	41	95	\$516,769
GRINFROMEARTOEAR USA	199	99	263	\$1,994,597	54	14	27	\$196,095	64	36	87	\$533,910

2010/2011 Top 10 Broodmare Sires - by Dollars Earned

Broodmare Sire	Aust				2YO				3YO			
	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
HOLMES HANOVER USA	457	266	653	\$4,224,567	48	20	42	\$582,368	67	37	83	\$414,846
FAKE LEFT USA	307	178	524	\$3,712,588	61	29	69	\$788,427	78	44	144	\$941,805
SOKYS ATOM USA	285	156	408	\$3,614,129	29	10	23	\$201,779	55	24	64	\$332,994
FALCON SEELSTER USA	200	121	419	\$2,895,015	19	7	15	\$143,084	46	26	92	\$540,131
SAFELY KEPT USA	301	156	392	\$2,691,663	60	18	40	\$547,651	78	41	98	\$575,274
CLASSIC GARRY	345	175	391	\$2,332,066	39	7	10	\$88,059	77	37	93	\$653,645
WHAT'S NEXT USA	321	154	401	\$2,324,861	30	10	14	\$124,697	61	26	85	\$499,463
IN THE POCKET USA	170	106	294	\$2,204,287	20	9	14	\$283,676	46	32	107	\$804,138
TROUBLEMAKER USA	225	111	302	\$1,905,747	32	6	7	\$67,464	40	22	62	\$431,742
NEW YORK MOTORING USA	185	112	260	\$1,839,735	23	10	23	\$157,643	23	15	34	\$183,530

PACERS

All Time: 2:00 Horses and the No. of Times Broken

Season	One Mile		Distances		Total		One Mile		Distances		Total	
	2.00.0 PERFORMANCES	2.00.0 HORSES	2.00.0 PERFORMANCES	2.00.0 HORSES	PERFORMANCES	HORSES	1.55.0 PERFORMANCES	1.55.0 HORSES	1.55.0 PERFORMANCES	1.55.0 HORSES	1.55.0 PERFORMANCES	1.55.0 HORSES
2010-2011	1,265	886	3,528	1,953	4,793	2,482	121	89	72	61	193	144
2009-2010	1,101	831	3,230	1,826	4,331	2,372	42	39	50	34	92	71
2008-2009	985	752	2,576	1,498	3,561	2,250	21	20	9	8	30	27
2007-2008**	547	469	2,016	1,248	2,485	1,795	12	12	5	5	17	17
2006-2007*	595	488	2,376	1,408	2,003	1,896	5	5	9	8	14	11
2005-2006	495	408	2,176	1,337	2,671	1,745	5	5	6	5	11	10
2004-2005	532	449	2,021	1,253	2,553	1,702	3	3	8	8	11	11
2003-2004	416	352	1,632	1,027	2,048	1,379	3	3	4	2	7	4
2002-2003	459	372	1,265	838	1,724	1,210	2	2	-	-	2	2
2001-2002	488	387	1,068	721	1,556	1,108	2	2	1	1	3	3
2000-2001	362	295	1,092	717	1,454	1,012	8	7	2	2	10	9
1999-2000	378	294	1,041	699	1,419	993	2	2	-	-	2	2
1998-1999	351	277	911	597	1,262	874	3	3	1	1	4	4
1997-1998	292	233	754	532	1,046	765	4	4	-	-	4	4
1996-1997	288	232	731	499	1,019	731	2	2	1	1	3	3
1995-1996	258	209	493	356	751	565	2	2	1	1	3	3
1994-1995	196	165	379	263	575	428	-	-	-	-	-	-
1993-1994	215	182	412	289	627	471	1	1	-	-	1	1
1992-1993	214	171	285	193	499	364	1	1	-	-	1	1
1991-1992	195	167	336	242	531	409	2	2	1	1	3	3

2010/2011 Top 20 Fastest - Pacers

Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
SMOKEN UP NZ	8YO	GELDING	1:48.5MS	MILE	30/04/2011	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SMOKEN UP NZ	8YO	GELDING	1:50.3MS	MILE	27/11/2010	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
WASHAKIE NZ	7YO	GELDING	1:50.5MS	MILE	20/11/2010	L A MCCARTHY	J P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CAPTAIN JOY	5YO	GELDING	1:51.6MS	MILE	06/05/2011	J B WILLICK	S M HUNTER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR CROWN LAW NZ	5YO	ENTIRE	1:51.6MS	MILE	09/04/2011	A M SIEJKA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR CROWN LAW NZ	5YO	ENTIRE	1:51.6MS	MILE	02/04/2011	A M SIEJKA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
STEEL BURG	5YO	GELDING	1:51.6MS	MILE	20/08/2011	R P MORRIS	P C MORRIS	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PACIFIC PLAYGIRL NZ	6YO	MARE	1:51.8MS	MILE	19/02/2011	G W BENNETT	D F BRAUN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MISTER ANTHONY	6YO	GELDING	1:51.9MS	MILE	29/03/2011	A M DAY	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
EXCEL STRIDE	3YO	COLT	1:52.1MS	MILE	06/08/2011	G W BENNETT	E A HEATH	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PERFECT SHOT	6YO	GELDING	1:52.2MS	MILE	09/04/2011	C J FITZPATRICK	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
LADY LEXUS	6YO	MARE	1:52.3MS	MILE	30/04/2011	G J FITZPATRICK	P R J FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
THE GUNSTAR	7YO	GELDING	1:52.3MS	MILE	27/11/2010	C A ALFORD	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BROADWAYS BEST	5YO	MARE	1:52.4MS	MILE	05/03/2011	C A ALFORD	S R MCLEAN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
COASTAL NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:52.4MS	1,720M	25/02/2011	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
OUR CROWN LAW NZ	5YO	ENTIRE	1:52.4MS	MILE	03/03/2011	L R PANELLA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
LANERCOST NZ	4YO	ENTIRE	1:52.5MS	MILE	30/04/2011	D W GRAHAM	D W GRAHAM	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MISTER ANTHONY	6YO	GELDING	1:52.5MS	MILE	18/03/2011	A M DAY	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR CROWN LAW NZ	5YO	ENTIRE	1:52.5MS	MILE	21/04/2011	A M SIEJKA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
VEGAS BOUND	6YO	GELDING	1:52.5MS	MILE	20/11/2010	D R HANCOCK	B P HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
VILLAGEM	5YO	GELDING	1:52.5MS	1,720M	05/11/2010	L M MILES	L MILES	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)

2010/2011 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Pacers

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
PACERS							
Overall							
OUR CROWN LAW NZ (5YO)	ENTIRE	1:51.6MS	MILE	09/04/2011	ASHLEE M SIEJKA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PACIFIC PLAYGIRL NZ (6YO)	MARE	1:51.8MS	MILE	19/02/2011	G W BENNETT	D F BRAUN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SMOKEN UP NZ (8YO)	GELDING	1:48.5MS	MILE	30/04/2011	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
4YO+							
OUR CROWN LAW NZ (5YO)	ENTIRE	1:51.6MS	MILE	09/04/2011	ASHLEE M SIEJKA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PACIFIC PLAYGIRL NZ (6YO)	MARE	1:51.8MS	MILE	19/02/2011	G W BENNETT	D F BRAUN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SMOKEN UP NZ (8YO)	GELDING	1:48.5MS	MILE	30/04/2011	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
3YO							
EXCEL STRIDE	COLT	1:52.1MS	MILE	06/08/2011	G W BENNETT	E A HEATH	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
COURAGEOUS ANNIE NZ	FILLY	1:52.6MS	MILE	11/02/2011	D W GRAHAM	D W GRAHAM	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SUSHI SUSHI	GELDING	1:54.1MS	2,300M	26/06/2011	G R SUGARS	F TAIBA	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
2YO							
GAMECHANGER	COLT	1:54.7MS	MILE	15/04/2011	J D PENGILLY	J D PENGILLY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OH EYE SEE	FILLY	1:55.3MS	MILE	06/08/2011	G W BENNETT	P R J FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
THEARTOFDELUSION	GELDING	1:55.7MS	MILE	26/06/2011	G W MCELHINNEY	B F COTTERILL	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BEACH INSPECTOR	GELDING	1:56.8MS	MILE	10/05/2010	D R PERROT	D R PERROT	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
FIVE O'CLOCK AFFAIR	GELDING	1:56.8MS	MILE	23/03/2010	J B OGDEN	E A HEATH	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)

2010/2011 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Pacers

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
PACERS					
Overall					
ENTIRE	MR FEELGOOD USA	8	5	\$467,267	1:52.9MS
MARE	IMA SPICEY LOMBO	15	6	\$259,205	1:55.1MS
GELDING	IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	11	6	\$619,715	1:56.7MS
4YO+					
ENTIRE	MR FEELGOOD USA	8	5	\$467,267	1:52.9MS
MARE	IMA SPICEY LOMBO	15	6	\$259,205	1:55.1MS
GELDING	IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	11	6	\$619,715	1:56.7MS
3YO					
COLT	EXCEL STRIDE	16	11	\$225,638	1:52.1MS
FILLY	BELLAS DELIGHT	14	6	\$211,630	1:57.8MS
GELDING	SUSHI SUSHI	11	11	\$399,680	1:54.1MS
2YO					
COLT	THREE OVER THREE	10	6	\$245,705	1:56.2MS
FILLY	THE ARCHDUCHESS	17	5	\$212,576	2:00.9MS
GELDING	TERROR TIME	6	4	\$109,970	1:57.9MS

TROTTERS

2010/2011 Top 20 Fastest - Trotters

Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	9YO	GELDING	TR1:54.3MS	MILE	27/11/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
RONERAIL	8YO	GELDING	TR1:56.6MS	MILE	15/01/2011	K E MANNING	P G MANNING	BENDIGO (VIC)
MAKAREWA SUN NZ	9YO	GELDING	TR1:56.8MS	MILE	20/08/2011	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE	5YO	MARE	TR1:56.9MS	1,720M	18/03/2011	D AIKEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
KING OF STRATHFIELD NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:57.1MS	MILE	10/05/2011	D J THORN	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE	5YO	MARE	TR1:57.2MS	MILE	19/02/2011	J B OGDEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
KING OF STRATHFIELD NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:57.3MS	MILE	04/06/2011	D J THORN	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
DOUGIE	8YO	ENTIRE	TR1:57.5MS	MILE	05/04/2011	D J BINSKIN	D J BISKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SASSY PINEVALE	5YO	MARE	TR1:57.6MS	MILE	15/07/2011	D K DOUGLAS	R A GRAHAM	MARYBOROUGH (VIC)
IM TINA TURNER NZ	6YO	MARE	TR1:57.7MS	MILE	08/03/2011	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SASSY PINEVALE	5YO	MARE	TR1:57.7MS	MILE	12/03/2011	D K DOUGLAS	R A GRAHAM	BENDIGO (VIC)
BONITO	11YO	GELDING	TR1:57.8MS	MILE	06/05/2011	J R PONSONBY	J R PONSONBY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
TENDER DON	6YO	GELDING	TR1:57.8MS	MILE	06/05/2011	J J ALCHIN	J J ALCHIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE	5YO	MARE	TR1:57.9MS	MILE	02/03/2011	D AIKEN	D J HEATH	MARYBOROUGH (VIC)
ARIZONA BLUE	5YO	MARE	TR1:58.0MS	1,720M	08/04/2011	D AIKEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
DOUBLE BUNDY NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:58.1MS	MILE	25/03/2011	G W BENNETT	K J PIZZUTO	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
DANNY CASH	6YO	GELDING	TR1:58.2MS	2,240M	11/03/2011	K E MANNING	K E MANNING	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
IDLE MAPLE NZ	5YO	MARE	TR1:58.3MS	MILE	30/08/2011	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MAKAREWA SUN NZ	9YO	GELDING	TR1:58.5MS	MILE	23/07/2011	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
XENON NZ	5YO	MARE	TR1:58.5MS	MILE	19/07/2011	J R PONSONBY	R D COMMENS	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)

2010/2011 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Trotters

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
TROTTERS							
Overall							
DOUGIE (8YO)	ENTIRE	TR1:57.5MS	MILE	05/04/2011	D J BINSKIN	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE (5YO)	MARE	TR1:56.9MS	1,720M	18/03/2011	D AIKEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ (9YO)	GELDING	TR1:54.3MS	MILE	27/11/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
4YO+							
DOUGIE (8YO)	ENTIRE	TR1:57.5MS	MILE	05/04/2011	D J BINSKIN	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE (5YO)	MARE	TR1:56.9MS	1,720M	18/03/2011	D AIKEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ (9YO)	GELDING	TR1:54.3MS	MILE	27/11/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
3YO							
SIR PEGASUS	COLT	TR2:03.3MS	2240M	18/08/2011	L R SUTTON	D B VAN RYN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
JUST A PHOENIX	FILLY	TR2:00.2MS	1720M	18/03/2011	C A LANG (JNR)	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
PARAMOUNT GEEGEE NZ	GELDING	TR1:59.8MS	2,240M	21/08/2011	R D HOLMES	J W DICKIE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
2YO							
SONOFFACO	COLT	TR2:03.3MS	2240M	19/08/2011	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SHEER ILLUSION	FILLY	TR2:00.0MS	1609M	03/05/2011	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
FLYING ISA NZ	GELDING	TR2:00.6MS	2240M	21/08/2011	R D HOLMES	J W DICKIE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)

2010/2011 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Trotters

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
TROTTERS					
Overall					
ENTIRE	DOWN UNDER MUSCLES	11	3	\$81,000	TR2:03.9MS
MARE	ARIZONA BLUE	20	8	\$87,880	TR1:56.9MS
GELDING	SUNDONS GIFT NZ	8	6	\$204,875	TR1:54.3MS
4YO+					
Overall					
ENTIRE	DOWN UNDER MUSCLES	11	3	\$81,000	TR2:03.9MS
MARE	ARIZONA BLUE	20	8	\$87,880	TR1:56.9MS
GELDING	SUNDONS GIFT NZ	8	6	\$204,875	TR1:54.3MS
3YO					
Overall					
COLT	SIR PEGASUS	22	3	\$19,000	TR2:03.3MS
FILLY	ADHESIVE	15	3	\$59,750	TR2:02.6MS
GELDING	THE BOHEMIAN NZ	9	6	\$88,350	TR2:00.6MS
2YO					
Overall					
COLT	ALDEBARAN SHADES NZ	6	4	\$47,625	TR2:06.3MS
FILLY	SHES AN IMAGE	11	5	\$64,075	TR2:05.9MS
GELDING	FLYING ISA NZ	1	1	\$100,860	TR2:00.6MS

2010/2011 Top 10 Trainers - by Wins

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Dead Heats	Metro Wins	Country Wins	Stakes	Metro Stakes	Country Stakes	State
BILL DIXON (QLD)	1,436	299	253	201	187	4	60	239	\$1,823,067	\$980,599	\$842,469	QLD
JOHN MCCARTHY (QLD)	688	157	98	87	67	4	59	98	\$1,250,798	\$791,516	\$459,282	QLD
GLENN DOUGLAS (VIC)	1,132	155	151	128	130	5	29	126	\$1,244,836	\$593,575	\$651,261	VIC
ROSS OLIVIERI (WA)	714	143	108	74	67	2	70	73	\$2,087,523	\$1,710,185	\$377,338	WA
PAUL FITZPATRICK (NSW)	614	129	99	88	78	1	35	94	\$1,365,170	\$751,130	\$614,040	NSW
DAVID KENNEDY (NSW)	428	127	60	40	46	3	4	123	\$471,955	\$52,920	\$419,035	NSW
STEVE TURNBULL (NSW)	794	125	127	103	103	5	12	113	\$792,664	\$198,785	\$593,879	NSW
JONATHON KINGSTON-MAYNE (SA)	354	120	71	43	30	3	14	106	\$408,865	\$117,480	\$291,385	SA
PETER J MCMULLEN (QLD)	1,145	113	105	102	124	2	15	98	\$425,374	\$139,862	\$285,512	QLD
GARY HALL (SNR) (WA)	523	113	70	62	40	2	58	55	\$1,898,938	\$1,614,123	\$284,815	WA

2010/2011 Top 10 Drivers - by Wins

Driver & State	Starts	Metro Wins	Metro Points	Country Wins	Country Points	Total Points	Dead Heats	Total Wins	Season Prizemoney
DARYL K DOUGLAS (VIC)	2,292	38	38	341	340	378	2	379	\$2,596,341
CHRIS A ALFORD (VIC)	1,577	44	44	236	235.5	279.5	1	280	\$2,370,998
GRANT W DIXON (QLD)	1,117	42	42	184	183.5	225.5	1	226	\$1,166,552
DAVID K HARDING (SA)	897	15	15	210	210	225	0	225	\$696,993
GAVIN LANG (VIC)	1,065	34	34	188	187.5	221.5	1	222	\$1,713,145
CHRIS A LEWIS (WA)	1,002	81	81	115	114.5	195.5	1	196	\$2,399,285
PETER J MCMULLEN (QLD)	1,265	28	28	163	163	191	0	191	\$782,782
GREG R SUGARS (SA)	1,161	24	24	165	164.5	188.5	1	189	\$2,018,530
GREG W BENNETT (NSW)	908	41	41	132	132	173	0	173	\$1,316,500
MORGEN L WOODLEY (WA)	1,247	38	38	124	123.5	161.5	1	162	\$1,589,922



2011 HRA AWARD WINNERS

J.D. WATTS AWARDS

Leading Trainer of the Year
Bill Dixon – 299 Wins

Leading Driver of the Year
Daryl Douglas – 379 Wins

AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR

SMOKEN UP NZ

LAWN DERBY AWARDS - PACERS

AGED HORSE/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - SMOKEN UP NZ

Owners: Alex Kay, Peter Gadsby, Alan Bonney, Michael Van Rens, Ryan Kay, Vincent MacDonald, Leonardo Locastro Trainer: Lance Justice Breeder: SM & CM Dunlop, EJ & DW Monk Performances: AUS 13 starts 9 wins \$547,151 1:48.5MS
NZ 5 starts 3 wins \$574,000 1:55.8MS

AGED MARE PACER OF THE YEAR - MAKE MINE CULLEN

Owners: Est of Roger Bazley Trainer: Glenn Douglas Breeder: Roger Bazley Performances: 19 starts 8 wins \$198,440 1:53.1MS

3YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - SUSHI SUSHI

Owners: Paul Sequenzia, Adrian Cendron, Chupina Bloodstock Peter D'Alessi Trainer: Freddy Taiba Breeder: Weona Standardbreds Performances: AUS 11 starts 11 wins \$399,680 1:54.1MS NZ 2 starts 2 wins \$246,555 1:57.4MS

3YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR - BELLAS DELIGHT

Owners: Rob Auber, Grant Foxwell, Peter Kelly, Chris Kelsall, Merrilyn Kelly, Lorrae O'Neil, Cameron Auber, Hayden Auber, Joshua Auber Trainer: Kari Males Breeder: Rob Auber, Ian Sievers, Grant Foxwell, Chris Kelsall, Peter Kelly, John Proctor Performances: 14 starts 6 wins \$211,630 1:57.8MS

2YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - THREE OVER THREE

Owner: Richard Fraser Trainer: Paul Fitzpatrick Breeder: Richard Fraser Performances: 10 starts 6 wins \$245,705 1:56.2MS

2YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR - SENSATIONAL GABBY

Owner: Susan Beven, Daniel Roberts, Brian Anderson, Barry Sutton, Norman Champion Trainer: Gregory Schofield Breeder: Daniel Roberts, Brian Anderson, Susan Beven, Norman Champion & Jay Farrell Performances: 9 starts 8 wins \$164,400 1:56.8MS



2011 HRA AWARD WINNERS

VANCLEVE AWARDS - TROTTERS

AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR - SUNDONS GIFT NZ

Owners: Botsky Pty Ltd Trustee for BBB Trust (NN Botica) Trainer: Chris Lang
Breeder: Trevor & Vera Allingham Performances: AUS 8 starts 6 wins \$204,875
TR1:54.3MS NZ 2 starts 0 wins \$1,546

AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR - ARIZONA BLUE

Owners: (DJ) John Heath Trainer: DJ (John) Heath Breeder: DJ (John) Heath
Performances: 20 starts 8 wins \$87,880 TR1:56.9MS

3YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR - THE BOHEMIAN NZ

Valmay & Kevin Crossland, Tim Miller, Bryan Coghlan, Andrew Curran, John Hazeldene,
Katie MacDonald, Adrian Spencer, John Whelan, Philip McKern Trainer: Anthony Crossland
Breeder: Margaret Townley Performances: 9 starts 6 wins \$88,350 TR:00.6MS

3YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR - ADHESIVE

Owner: Peter Hornsby Trainer: Peter Hornsby Breeder: Peter Hornsby
Performances 15 starts 3 wins \$59,750 TR2:02.6MS

2YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR - FLYING ISA NZ

Owner: John & Jocelyn Davies, Jonathan Hope, Jennifer Sutherland,
Lynda German, Joanne Taylor Trainer: John Dickie Breeder: Kym Kearns
Performances: 1 start 1 win \$100,860 TR2:00.6MS

2YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR - SHES AN IMAGE

Owners: Jack & Terrence Humphrey Trainer: Eric Watson
Breeder Jack & Terrence Humphrey Performances: 11 starts 5 wins \$64,075 TR2:05.9MS

GLOBE DERBY AWARDS - SIRE

CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ

Leading Sire by Stakemoney: 288 Starters 181 Winners 562 Wins \$4,440,449

ART MAJOR USA

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney: 111 Starters 54 Winners 114 Wins \$1,406,947

SUNDON USA

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney: 134 Starters 72 Winners 173 Wins \$1,458,782

WINONA AWARD

AUSTRALIAN BROODMARE OF THE YEAR - SEXY LEXY WHITBY

(F1998) by Mystical Prince USA from Whitbys Miss Penny by Booth Hanover USA from Fiscal Miss by Captain Hook USA

Overall Record: Dam of 6 of Racing Age - 5 Winners 4 in 2:00
2010/2011 Record: 4 winners 16 wins 16 placings \$306,296
BLACK CAPRICE (P:2:01.6ms) 6 starts 2 wins 2 placings \$14,775
IMA SPICEY LOMBO (P:1:55.1ms) 15 starts 6 wins 6 placings \$259,205
2011 Global Insurance Broking Australian Pacing Championship
\$125,000-G1 (AC Lewis) Gloucester Park, WA

2011 WA Empress Stakes \$50,000 - G2 (AC Lewis) Gloucester Park, WA
2010 Parliamentarians Cup \$30,000 - G3 (AC Lewis) Gloucester Park, WA
2010 WA Mares Mile \$35,000 - G3 (AC Lewis) Gloucester Park, WA
MISTER MORANI (P:1:57.0ms) 5 starts 4 wins 1 placing \$12,983
MODERN WHITBY (P:1:55.0ms) 13 starts 4 wins 7 placings \$19,333



GRAND CIRCUIT

The Barastoc Grand Circuit action for the 2010/11 season went above and beyond expectations. The pacing series went down to the wire with West Australian star Im Themightyquinn lasting by the solitary point from iron tough Victorian pacer Smoken Up. Fittingly, both pacers staged a gripping battle in the Inter Dominion Pacing Grand Final at Alexandra Park, Auckland in April.

The Gary Hall trained Im Themightyquinn ended the season with 19 points, one point ahead of Smoken Up who tallied 18 points while former North American superstar Mr Feelgood polled 12 points.

The season officially got underway in Brisbane with the running of the Gr.1 \$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship and the all-conquering McCarthy family was to the fore with a stable quinella with Mr Feelgood defeating Washakie.

The spotlight then switched to Shaky Isles and for the second straight season, wonder horse Monkey King claimed both the Gr.1 \$NZ750,000 New Zealand Cup and the Gr.1 \$NZ200,000 New Zealand FFA for trainer Brendon Hill and driver Ricky May.

As expected, interest in the Gr.1 \$500,000 Miracle Mile was fierce and the race didn't disappoint with Smoken Up staging a stunning effort to outstay Blacks A Fake in a then record time of 1.50.3 at Tabcorp Park, Menangle.

The McCarthy stables then stood tall again claiming the next two legs, Washakie dominated in the Gr.1 \$100,000 Treuer Memorial at Bankstown while Mr Feelgood claimed his second Grand Circuit victory for the season with a crushing victory in the Gr.1 \$425,000 Victoria Cup at Tabcorp Park, Melton.

Over the Christmas holiday period, the Dean Braun trained Our Chain Of Command claimed the Gr.1 \$100,000 Tasmania Cup in Hobart while Smoken Up ventured back to Adelaide to win the Gr.1 \$100,000 South Australia Cup at Globe Derby Park for trainer/driver Lance Justice.

Pacing Championship at Gloucester Park; the Ross Olivieri trained and Mick Lombardo owned mare was the only female winner on the Grand Circuit during the season.

The action then returned to New Zealand for the Gr.1 \$NZ400,000 Auckland Cup and Im Themightyquinn and Mr Feelgood upstaged the locals and the Australian domination continued during the Inter Dominion series with the Australians sweeping all heats and then providing the trifecta in the \$NZ800,000 Final with Smoken Up defeating Im Themightyquinn and Blacks A Fake.

The trotters Grand Circuit was also keenly contested with a genuine Trans-Tasman flavour.

But Sundons Gift claimed his second straight title of Grand Circuit champion for Chris Lang and owner Neven Botica after winning three legs during the season.

New Zealand hosted the first two legs with the Gr.1 \$NZ80,000 NZ Trotting FFA won by Ima Gold Digger while the Gr.1 \$NZ200,000 Dominion went the way of emerging star Stylish Monarch for Murray Tapper and driver Ricky May.

Australian champion Sundons Gift won the first three legs held in Australia, the Chris Lang trained and driven trotter won the Gr.1 \$50,000 NSW Trotters Mile in record time of 1.54.3 at Tabcorp Park, Menangle before winning the Gr.1 \$50,000 Bill Collins Mile and the Gr.1 \$125,000 Australian Trotters Grand Prix at Tabcorp Park, Melton.

Star Kiwi trotter Sovereignty won the Gr.1 \$NZ80,000 National Trot at Alexandra Park, Auckland before emerging Australian star Let Me Thru claimed the next two legs with victories in the Gr.1 \$125,000 Australasian Trotting

INTEREST IN THE GR.1 \$500,000 MIRACLE MILE WAS FIERCE AND THE RACE DIDN'T DISAPOINT WITH SMOKEN UP STAGING A STUNNING EFFORT TO OUTSTAY BLACKS A FAKE IN A THEN RECORD TIME OF 1.50.3 AT TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE.

Im Themightyquinn proved he is the best in the west winning both the Gr.1 \$250,000 Fremantle Cup before returning the following week to score a courageous victory in the Gr.1 \$400,000 WA Cup at Gloucester Park.

Feature racing returned to Victoria and the Kiwi's arrived in force but it was the Tim and Anthony Butt combination that struck gold winning both the Gr.1 \$125,000 Ballarat Pacing Cup and the Gr.1 \$425,000 Hunter Cup with emerging star Stunin Cullen.

Star mare Ima Spicey Lombo enjoyed the absence of Im Themightyquinn and claimed the Gr.1 \$125,000 Australian

Championship and the Gr.1 \$50,000 V L Dullard Cup at Tabcorp Park, Melton.

The action then swung back to New Zealand to end the season with the Gr.1 \$NZ250,000 Inter Dominion at Alexandra Park, Auckland taken out by I Can Doosit for Mark Purdon while the Gr.1 \$NZ80,000 NZ Trotting Championship at Addington was won by Stylish Monarch from I Can Doosit.

I Can Doosit returned to Alexandra Park, Auckland to win the Gr.1 \$NZ200,000 Rowe Cup in May to cap a huge season for the Muscles Yankee gelding





INTER DOMINION WRAP

The dynamics of the 2011 Inter Dominion changed dramatically before the series officially begun. The series was originally set to be staged in Christchurch before being forced to the safer ground of Auckland after devastating earthquakes rocked the city a month before the event was slated.



defending champion Sundons Gift being withdrawn and forced out the series after battling a virus during the week.

The \$NZ800,000 Sky City Inter Dominion Pacing Grand Final was considered Australia's race to lose despite both Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn both drawing awkward barriers while Australian champion Blacks A Fake met with sentimental support after drawing ideally in gate two.

Blacks A Fake led initially before surrendering the lead mid-race to Smoken Up while Im Themightyquinn sat back in the field.

Smoken Up continued to run along at a hot pace and Im Themightyquinn was forced to make a long and searching run deep off the track, Smoken Up held strong in the home straight holding Im Themightyquinn while Blacks A Fake battled for third.

Smoken Up is trained and driven by Lance Justice.

The \$NZ250,000 Dream With Me Stables Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Final went the way of champion trainer/

SMOKEN UP AND I CAN DOOSIT ARE WORTHY WINNERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INTER DOMINION GRAND FINALS FOR 2011 AND LOOK DESTINED FOR FURTHER GLORY IN THE FUTURE.

Instantly, the series was in jeopardy with officials working feverishly searching for alternate solutions and stakeholders became frustrated with stilted information that was forthcoming.

Officials considered postponing the series or even transferring it to another venue.

It was the latter option that was taken with Harness Racing New Zealand, New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club and Auckland Trotting Club working together brilliantly to keep the series on target.

The series almost remained in the exact format that was originally programmed.

So, the series officially began on Friday, 25th March and the Australian trained pacers dominated the opening night with Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn winning their respective heats.

The trotting series began with Canterbury trotter Dr Hook striking in the opening heat before emerging Australian star Let Me Thru for father/son combination of Chris and Chris Jr. Lang squared the ledger with a dominant display to win heat two.

The Australian domination continued on night two with Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn again winning their respective heats and giving their rivals pacing lessons for the second straight week.

Giant trotter Raydon delivered with a strong victory in heat three of the trotting series while Let Me Thru produced another stunning performance to win from a seemingly impossible position on the home turn to claim heat four and guarantee favouritism for the rich final.

The Lang stable faced mixed fortunes on night two with

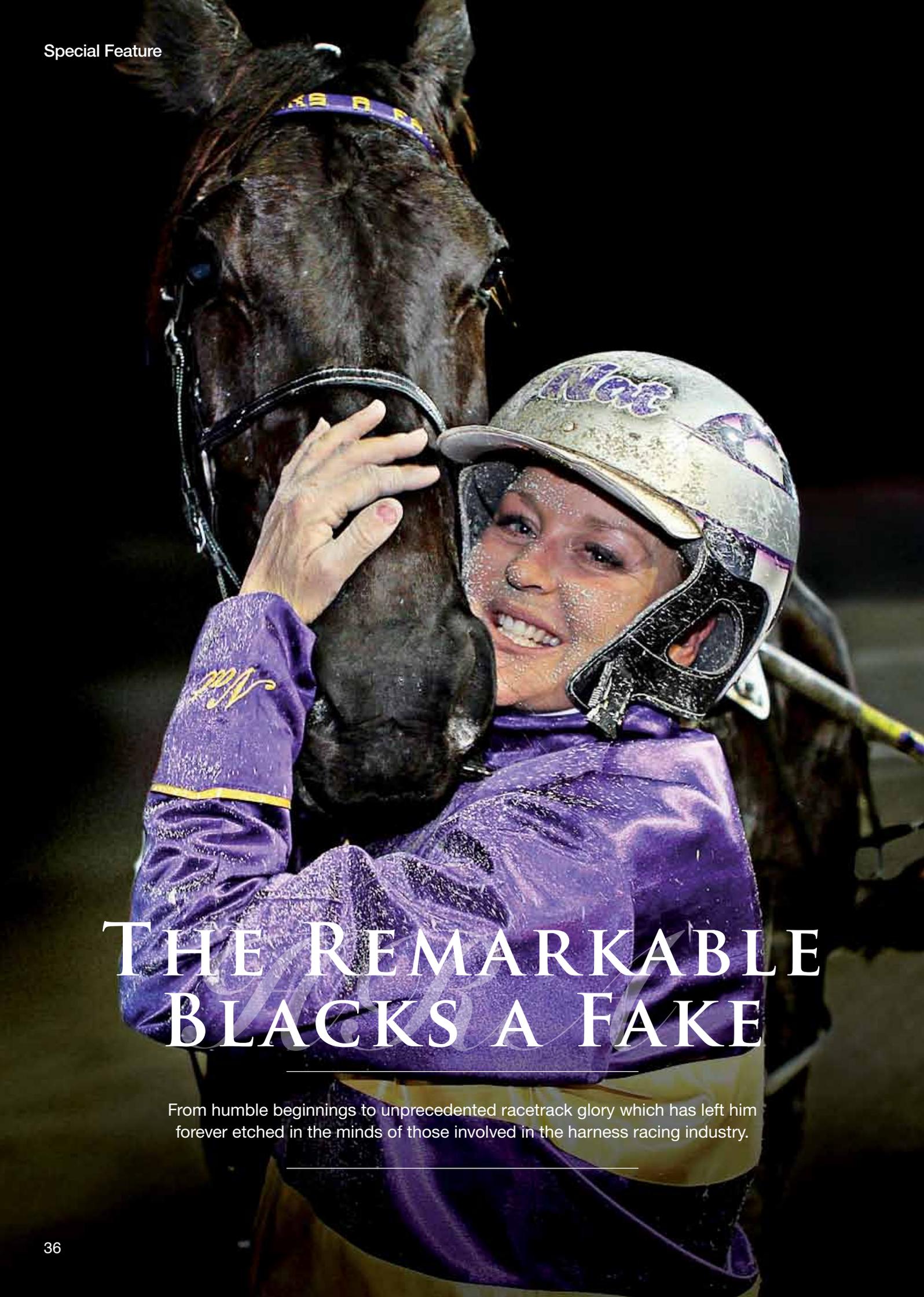
driver Mark Purdon with his royally bred gelding I Can Doosit grabbing race favourite Let Me Thru over the concluding stages.

Let Me Thru was forced to work hard mid-race before eventually finding the front but as brave as he was, the late finishing charge from I Can Doosit proved devastating for the 'Aussie' invader.

I Can Doosit is prepared by Mark Purdon along with his training partner and brother-in-law Grant Payne.

Smoken Up and I Can Doosit were worthy winners of their respective Inter Dominion Grand Finals for 2011 and look destined for further glory in the future.





THE REMARKABLE BLACKS A FAKE

From humble beginnings to unprecedented racetrack glory which has left him forever etched in the minds of those involved in the harness racing industry.

Blacks A Fake retired at the end of the 2010/11 season when a fighting second in the Gr.1 \$100,000 Winter Cup behind Georgetown.

It wasn't the fairytale finish that everyone had hoped for but the world's richest earning pacer of all time had nothing more to prove and retired completely sound and with a record that can't be matched.

Fittingly, Blacks A Fake retired on his 'home soil' of Albion Park, a racetrack where he won 38 times from 50 starts during his illustrious career including his unforgettable victory over another superstar pacer in Be Good Johnny in the 2007 Winter Cup.

The Fake Left gelding played an instrumental part in elevating Queensland back on the national stage after the sunshine State was considered a harness racing minnow for well over a decade, Blackie put the race back into racing and the crowds returned to the track when he raced.

Bred by the late Ron Pointer, who was a co-owner of the famed Egmont Park Stud in the famous Darling Downs in south-west Queensland, a brown Fake Left – Colada Hanover colt was foaled on 1st September, 2000.

Blacks A Fake was Colada Hanover's fourth foal.

Blackie became part part of a three horse package that was secured by Trevor Titcomb and Vic Rasmussen, the father of trainer/driver Natalie.

Pointer passed away more than six years ago but his wife Helen retained a share in Black A Fake.

Kylie Rasmussen, older sister of Natalie was given the role of breaking-in the colt and battled with his free spirit and playful attitude.

THE STORY OF BLACKS A FAKE IS TRULY REMARKABLE. BLACKIE PUT THE RACE BACK INTO RACING AND THE CROWDS RETURNED TO THE TRACK WHEN HE RACED.

Blackie was then gelded and spelled with his connections hoping he would develop with more time.

Natalie Rasmussen sat behind Blackie in his first trial and he scored comfortably leaving an immediate impression with the young driver.

Blacks A Fake ventured to the races for the first time on 6th August, 2003 at the Gold Coast and duly won defeating Arkareena in spectacular fashion in a time of 1:58.7.

Blackie raced four times during his rookie term for three wins and a third placing before heading to the paddock for a well deserved break.

As a three-year-old, Blackie made a winning return at the Gold Coast and looked set for stardom with the Breeders Classic and the QBRED Triad features likely targets.

Blacks A Fake made a clean sweep of the Breeders Classic series at the Gold Coast after winning the final narrowly from Mister Martini and Romeos Legend.



The defining moment of Blackie's true potential arrived during his victory in the QBRED Triad Final at Albion Park after racing outside race favourite and fellow star Slipnslide in a 1:59.5 mile rate with the final quarter clocked in 27.2 seconds.

Blacks A Fake won seven of his eights starts during his 3yo term including two features.

Blackie missed his entire four-year-old term due to a curbed hock plus a hind suspensory injury, he missed 17 months of racing.

Returning as a five-year-old, Blackie was transferred to the stables of Natalie from her father Vic and won both the Members Cup at Albion Park and the Redcliffe Christmas

Cup under standing start conditions before Rasmussen quickly turned her attention to southern features.

Blacks A Fake was beaten in his first three Victorian starts before winning at Moonee Valley and then backed up with a victory in the Terang Cup.

The 2006 Inter Dominion series in Tasmania beckoned and the emerging star didn't disappoint, Blackie scored in two of his three heats before winning the \$1.5 million Final defeating Karloo Mick and Slipnslide.

The victory crowned Natalie Rasmussen as the first reinswoman to win an Inter Dominion Final.

Blacks A Fake went from a C4 to winning an Inter Dominion Final in one season.

The Queensland champion then set about dominating the open class scene in Australia with Rasmussen looking at most of the Grand Circuit features.



Blacks A Fake was invited to contest the 2006 Miracle Mile and finished second to Be Good Johnny in a time of 1:54.3 before winning the Treuer Memorial at Bankstown plus the Victoria Cup at Moonee Valley downing the likes of Flashing Red and Robin Hood.

In January 2007, Blacks A Fake claimed consecutive Inter Dominion titles winning in Adelaide defeating Kiwi's Winforu and Foreal.

Blackie returned to Brisbane and dominated during the Winter Carnival winning both the Sunshine Sprint and Winter Cup before Equine Influenza struck.

The champion pacer was one of the first horses to contract the dreaded virus that crippled racing across Australia.

Blackie showed great courage to bounce back and headed to Victoria again to contest his third straight Inter Dominion series at Moonee Valley.

Along the way, Blackie was beaten by Safari in the Ballarat Cup before winning the Hunter Cup under astonishing circumstances.

Blacks A Fake overcame a gigantic handicap of 30m to defeat Smoken Up and Report For Duty in a staggering time of 1:58.9 for the marathon journey of 3065m.

That victory ranks as his best according to Rasmussen. Blackie then joined Our Sir Vancelot's record of three Inter Dominion Finals after sweeping the series in Melbourne.

Feature race success continued for the millionaire pacer and connections were hopeful of creating further history with a hometown victory in the 2009 Inter Dominion at the Gold Coast.

Those dreams were dashed when Blackie was mauled in the final by a crazed Auckland Reactor and finished a gallant second to former North American Mr Feelgood.

However, Blacks A Fake returned the following year as a nine-year-old to win the 2010 Inter Dominion Final at Tabcorp Park, Menangle defeating Monkey King and Smoken Up.

His victory confirmed his place in the record books by becoming the first horse to win four Inter Dominion Finals.

Despite his rising age, Blackie still raced with great zest although he suffered from cardiac arrhythmia when resuming at Albion Park in July, 2010 and failed to finish behind Washakie in a FFA event which ultimately derailed his Brisbane Winter Carnival plans.

Blackie was again denied a Miracle Mile trophy when beaten by Smoken Up in a time of 1:50.3 before running second in the Treuer Memorial behind Washakie the following week.

His sixth Inter Dominion campaign was far from smooth, again, he suffered from cardiac arrhythmia and confusion reigned about the location of the series after host city Christchurch was rocked by vicious earthquakes.

With the series transferred to Auckland, Blacks A Fake made his first international trip and performed with great distinction during the series and finished a solid third in the final behind Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn.

Blacks A Fake contested six Inter Dominion Finals boasting four victories while second and third in the other finals.

It's a record that will never be achieved again. His final victory came in the Gr.2 \$60,000 Sunshine Sprint at Albion Park on 16th July before ending his career with a second Placing the following week in the Gr.1 \$100,000 Winter Cup.

His record stands at 105 starts for 72 wins and 24 placings with prizemoney of \$4,535,438.

He started in every State of Australia with the exception of West Australia and won a Gr.1 race in every State he raced in.

Twenty three of his 105 starts were in Gr.1 races, he won 11 and was placed eight times.

Had three drivers during his career, Natalie (70 wins) and Grant Dixon and Kylie Rasmussen both won one apiece.

He recorded his fastest time as a 10yo with a 1:53.7 milerate.

- Won 19 races between 1600m to 1999m
- Won 43 races between 2000m to 2599m
- Won 10 races at 2600m and beyond
- Started in six Inter Dominion Finals
- Started in four Miracle Miles

Blackie claimed National honours for Horse of the Year in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Blacks A Fake is widely recognised as our greatest horse of all time. And his achievements within the harness racing industry have been widely recognised in the greater community.

Natalie Rasmussen and Blacks A Fake have both become inductees in the Inter Dominion Harness Racing Hall Of Fame.

Blacks A Fake – thanks for the memories.

THE YEAR AHEAD

As we head into the New Year there is plenty for HRA to build upon. This will include, but certainly will not be restricted to:

- Implementation of the Breeding Panel Report Findings;
- Continuation of work on implementation of an Industry Card;
- Delivery of an Economic Impact Size and Scope study;
- Continue to work on Horse Health Issues with particular emphasis on Arbovirus and Hendra virus risks and vaccine development;
- Have influence on national committees and continue to achieve strong outcomes as evidenced by the recent passing of legislation relating to the EADRA;
- Work on developing a local standard for vests;
- Construct matrices so that insurance risks can be identified and addressed;

- Develop a national on-line training scheme for our club employees to improve knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety issues;
- Be innovative with new product offerings. Recent discussions with US administrators and Sky Racing will lead to extra racing being shown;
- Engage and exchange information with international jurisdictions;
- Interpret the reports being generated from the Injury and Incident data base so that action plans can be put in place;
- Enhance the social media opportunities

As administrators there is plenty to do to continue to develop and enhance the national approach to Harness Racing and HRA is determined to remain at the forefront of this challenge.

EADRA SIGNED AGREEMENT

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE AGREEMENT

On 3rd March 2011 at a ceremony at Parliament House Canberra, representatives of the four national horse organisations formally signed the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA).

Admission to the EADRA provides certainty in rapidly mounting a response to a future exotic disease affecting horses. Under this agreement, the Commonwealth Government is committed to underwrite industry's share of the costs of an emergency response, enabling swift and effective action to control and eradicate a disease threat.

After extensive consultation spanning greater than 12-months, organisations representing a clear majority of horse owners reached agreement about an acceptable funding mechanism to meet industry's share of the costs of an emergency response. Under this arrangement, a levy will

only be imposed after an actual disease emergency, when the response is finished.

The 2007 equine influenza outbreak showed how an exotic disease incursion can have widespread consequences for all sectors of the horse industry. This agreement is an important step in providing a greater level of protection and certainty for all horses and their owners.

The four bodies who signed the EADRA on behalf of the racing, performance and recreation sectors are:

- Harness Racing Australia
- Australian Racing Board
- Australian Horse Industry Council
- Equestrian Australia.





STATE REPORTS

Season 2010/11 has produced growth in a number of key performance areas, the most important being national turnover on the harness product. The focus for the next 12 months is to generate more turnover through increasing the volume of races.

VICTORIA



The 2010/11 racing year was a busy, challenging and rewarding year for harness racing in Victoria.

Strategic Plan

In order to meet some of the challenges presently facing the harness racing industry during the year, the Board and Management engaged in a series of strategic planning sessions, and consulted on its proposed

priorities with stakeholder organisations which has culminated in a Strategic Plan. The Plan is designed to steer the business through the next five years and will act as a blueprint for the management to implement over that time.

The HRV Board recognises that these are changing times in the wagering and racing business. Research is telling us that HRV needs to listen to a majority view that changes are required to make the sport more attractive and relevant.

With that in mind HRV's Plan has four key focus areas which are briefly summarized below:

1. The Racing Product;

- Generate more international interest with a focus on the trotting gait,
- Provide incentives to breeders and owners with more emphasis on juvenile racing,
- Enhance the visual appeal of the product,
- Creation of more industry events,

2. Financial sustainability;

- Continue to focus on wagering as the key driver of the business,
- Development of 80ha of land owned by HRV at Melton,

3. Melton;

- Maximise the racing and commercial benefits from Tabcorp Park,

4. People;

- Attract and retain people in the industry by providing training opportunities, syndication, use of IT, community activities,
- Re-brand and reposition harness racing perceptions.

Major Racing Events During 2010/11

HRV continued to run major racing carnivals which attracted big crowds and positive media attention:

- The Tabcorp Australasian Breeders Crown Finals were run at Tabcorp Park in August 2010. Nine Group one races were conducted on Finals Day for a total stakes pool of \$1.565m. The Breeders Crown overall paid a total stakes of \$2.421m which means the Crown continues to be Australasia's premier racing series,
- The SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup was run at Tabcorp Park a week before Christmas for \$425,000, attracting a high class field from interstate and New Zealand. Queenslander Mr Feelgood was successful, edging out New Zealander The Sleepy Tripp and Western Australia's Im Themightyquinn. Victoria's main hopes Smoken Up and Melpark Major finished sixth and seventh respectively. Victoria's best finisher was Decorated Jasper who ran fourth at 100/1,
- The BIG6 Hunter Cup was also run at Tabcorp Park for \$425,000 on 5th February, 2011. New Zealand were again to the fore with Stunin Cullen successful over another Kiwi Smiling Shard and top Western Australian horse Im Themightyquinn again third,
- On Hunter Cup night the Alabar Victoria Derby was run and won by rising star Sushi Sushi. Since then Sushi Sushi has gone on to win the Great Northern Derby in New Zealand and the Alabar Breeders Challenge in NSW and he looms as the next 'big thing' in harness racing.

Major Industry Awards

The industry once again celebrated achievements at the following major events:

- The industry's top award the Gordon Rothacker Medal was won by Arthur Graham. Arthur is the current Chairman of the Association of Victorian Country Harness Racing Clubs but he has also been a loyal servant of harness racing in the Swan Hill district – as an administrator and volunteer for the Nyah Club as well as a trainer and owner in his own right,
- The Horse of the Year Awards were conducted at Tabcorp Park in September for the 2009/10 season. The top award went to outstanding trotter Sundon's Gift, only the fourth square gaiter to achieve the honour since 1973. His credits during the year were winning the Inter Dominion Trotting Final, the Australian Trotting Grand Prix, New Zealand's Rowe Cup and NSW's Group 1 Sunnyfield Trotters Cup,
- The Harness Racing Weekly sponsored Vin Knight Medal was won by Glenn Douglas.



Gordon Rothacker

Gordon Rothacker passed away on 16th November, 2010 at the age of 81. Gordon is a legend of the sport of harness racing and it is a tribute to him that HRV's highest honour is named in his memory.

Tabcorp Park Awards

During the year Tabcorp Park received excellent recognition with several awards:

- The Community Clubs Association of Victoria announced Tabcorp Park as the 2010 Victorian Club of the Year.
- At the Melton Shire Business Excellence Awards, Tabcorp Park was awarded the Best Hospitality and Tourism Business.
- In a survey of Melton residents Tabcorp Park was voted second of 12 local 'icons' – runner up to the Botanic Gardens - which means the venue has been extremely well received in the local area.

Board Changes

During the year the Board underwent change when two long serving members, Carl O'Dwyer and Peter Bourke, retired on 31st May, 2011. Both Carl and Peter had given in excess of 10 years service to the Board, in addition to a life time participation in the sport. Their contribution at Board level has been significant.

We welcome Geoff Kay to the Board who brings many years of industry experience to the table.

NEW SOUTH WALES



The sale of Harold Park and an Australasian record at Tabcorp Park, Menangle provided a contrasting view of the past and the future of metropolitan harness racing in New South Wales.

Karlo Mick's crowd-pleasing victory in the final race staged at Harold Park over four laps of the famous Glebe Circuit was a fitting finale.

Smoken Up's sensational time of 1:48.5 in the Len Smith Mile proved conclusively that our horses are indeed World class.

Our two most important brands – the NSW Breeders Challenge and the Carnival of Cups – continued to deliver pleasing results.

Alabar Breeders Challenge day proved to be an outstanding success both on the racetrack and in terms of promotional aspects.

The first ever Breeders Challenge Regional Finals were held at Wagga in July and the Breeders Challenge Owners Bonus Certificates increased in value from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Foal numbers in NSW increased for the second consecutive year and the number of foals paid into the Breeder Challenge also climbed.

The announcement of a Breeders Challenge Nominators bonus for horses conceived in 2010/11, in conjunction with the Stallion Incentive Scheme, saw a surge in the number and quality of stallions standing at NSW studs.

The Carnival of Cups was expanded across the State and included many noteworthy meetings such as the Coolamon all-trotters day.

The financial year commenced with the expectation that two of the most critical aspects for the future funding and sustainability of the harness racing industry would be resolved; the sale of Harold Park and the finalisation of the Race Fields litigation.

Harness Racing NSW, in conjunction with Racing NSW, claimed a comprehensive victory at the Federal Court in November although a subsequent appeal to the High Court by Betfair and Sportsbet left the Race Fields matter in abeyance until FY12.

With the continuing real terms decline in para-mutuel wagering, and thus TAB distribution, this put further pressure on prizemoney.

There is no doubt that FY11 was another fiscally challenging 12 months with our future funding model left unresolved.

The sale of Harold Park was a poignant moment for all involved in the industry and the financial benefits have created great anticipation and optimism.

From a HRNSW perspective, more than \$25 million returned to the Racecourse Development Fund which will flow on to much needed infrastructure projects across the State.

In September the HRNSW Strategic Plan (2010-13) was released.

Outlining the Board's vision for the next three years, the Strategic Plan is a blueprint for the industry and many goals have already been achieved.

In terms of new income streams Tabcorp's virtual racing product (Trackside) showed promise.

Although being operationally for only the second half of the financial year and just partially rolled-out, the preliminary indications are that the forecast yearly income of \$700,000 is very achievable in the short term.

Additionally, through TAB Sportsbet, Tabcorp significantly expanded Fixed Odds options on harness racing.



An election promise by the Coalition for country racing across all three codes netted HRNSW \$650,000 although the expenditure won't be undertaken until FY12.

There were a number of IT and new media initiatives launched.

Trots TV was an exceptional hit with harness racing fans and participants and includes higher quality full replays, interviews, trials and the possibility of much more to come in the future.

An on-line payment and statement facility was added to an expanded and far more sophisticated HRNSW website and a merchandise store was established.

Significantly, HRNSW undertook the initial phase of animal welfare strategies with the help of various bodies and organisations.

Congratulations to everybody who enjoyed success in 2010/11 and the best of luck next season.

TASMANIA



The 2010/11 harness season resulted in significant improvement across a range of key performance indicators.

The foundation for growth was established at the start of the season when Tasracing realigned stakemoney aimed at:

1. Increasing revenue from harness wagering by conducting more races and maximizing the number of starters in each race.

2. Encouraging the continued availability of the critical mass of racing stock required to ensure a reliable and regular supply of product to our customers by programming races and conditions which directed more prizemoney to the significant existing pool of lower class horses.

Funds were sourced from feature races with stakemoney of \$10,000 or more. An analysis of the feature races resulted in \$230,000 being realigned.

The funds were directed to:

- 20 races at Sunday twilights all staked at \$7,000.
- 10 races at Mon/Wed Sky meetings at \$5,000.
- Increased stakemoney at all Mon/Wed Sky meetings to \$5,000.

The following data indicates the initiative to realign 2010/11 stakemoney was an encouraging success.

There was an increase in:

- The number of races covered by Sky Channel.
- Total starters.
- The average number of starters per race.
- National harness turnover.

	2009/10	2010/11	Increase (%)
Total Races	733	765	32 (4.37)
Sky Races	635	662	27 (4.25)
Starters	6453	7149	696 (10.79)
Average Field Size	8.8	9.35	0.55 (6.25)
National Turnover	\$50.76M	\$52.68M	\$1.92M (3.78)

Relevant figures are:

Ninety two race meetings were scheduled for 2010/11. One was abandoned due to an electrical failure.

The others were:

- 51 Sunday twilights on Sky 1.
- 22 midweek meetings on Sky 1 or Sky 2.
- 11 Non Sky meetings.
- Seven King Island Non Sky combined meetings.

A total of \$5,215,200 was distributed in stakemoney with \$148,700 of that amount provided by race clubs of which country clubs contributed \$115,700 to the 11 non Sky meetings.

The Tasmania Cup was the premier race meeting for the year. Ideally placed on Sunday 26th December, the eleven race card featured the local star Gedlee in the Tasmania Cup attempting to win his ninth consecutive race. The Gedlee factor resulted in a large crowd which contributed to record national turnover on the night.

Gedlee was one of many exciting four-year-olds to race in 2010/2011. Empty Envelope (eight wins), Gedlee (five), Outback Mach (four) Saab Quality (12), Saturday Nights (five) and Thirsty Mach (seven) all demonstrated they are well above average.

Beautide was the dominant three-year-old winning nine of his 10 starts and was beaten less than two metres in the other, which was the Tasmanian Derby. Cloudy Delight was the stand out two-year-old filly winning six races and competing in the \$312,000 Australasian Breeders Crown Final.

Gareth Rattray continued his sequence of leading driver awards with his sixth consecutive win. It is a remarkable achievement by the 26 year old and he is now well on the way to challenge his father Barrie's record of 11 titles. Gareth's younger brother Todd won his second junior driver award.

The depth of young driving talent in Tasmania is obvious with five drivers aged twenty six or younger in the Tasmanian top ten - Alex Ashwood (17), Nathan Ford (24), Erin Hollaway (25), Gareth Rattray (26) and Todd Rattray (21).

Nathan Ford represented Tasmania at the 2011 Australasian Young Drivers Championship in New Zealand. His third placing was the best result of the six Australian drivers.



Bridport trainer Grant Hodges won his first trainer's title with 68 winners after three placings in the previous four seasons. His assistant Erin Hollaway won her fourth consecutive female driver award with a career best 43 winners. Shelley Barnes was the State's leading female trainer.

Seventeen year old Brighton driver Alex Ashwood became the youngest and fastest Tasmanian to outdrive a claiming novice driver concession.

Ashwood reached the claim limit one year and three days after being licensed and was aged 17 years and three days. The previous records were held by Gareth Rattray.

The 2011 Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale was conducted at Inveresk in January. A record 67 horses were presented for sale with the previous best being 53 (2009). The sale aggregate was \$452,750 for an average of \$6,757.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders through:

- A Tasbred Bonus distribution of \$282,000.
- Abolition of foal notification fees and Tasbred series payments saving breeders \$54,000.
- Allocation of \$276,000 to stakemoney for Tasbred heats and finals.
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments of \$100,000.

Tasracing has commenced the process of linking qualifications to licensing for trainers, drivers and stablehands. Recognition of prior learning is a key component of the process. All current licensees are required to complete the identified modules before relicensing for 2012/13.

Tasmanian harness racing historian Peter Cooley completed another remarkable project. He has documented all Tasmanian winners from 1920 through to 1985, which is the year when HRA race records commenced. The information has been published on the HRA website.

A review of claiming novice driver's conditions was completed. Enhancements include an increase to 40 wins before the concession expires, allowances for injury, illness or pregnancy and an extension of the claim period for some younger drivers (conditions apply).

Season 2010/11 has produced growth in a number of key performance areas, the most important being national turnover on the harness product. The focus for the next 12 months is to generate more turnover through increasing the volume of races. That can be achieved through further refinements to race programming.

QUEENSLAND



The 2010/11 financial year has been to some degree a turning point for thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing in Queensland with the successful amalgamation of the codes of racing.

Racing Queensland Limited (RQL) has completed its initial year of operation on a positive note with the commencement of the multi-million dollar Industry Infrastructure Plan that was first released in early December 2010.

Now that RQL has a funding commitment of \$110 million from the Queensland Government confirmed, planning is well advanced on the \$39.9 million 'state of the art' harness and greyhound facility at Deagon and subject to the necessary approvals work is slated to commence in April 2012.

Deagon will answer the industry's call for a metropolitan standard facility for the harness and greyhound codes by delivering modern racing and training facilities for both codes.

The majority of the harness racing industry in Queensland want a 7/8th (1400m) of a mile track that will deliver exciting and competitive racing that will generate the opportunity for fast times and enhanced wagering turnover.

In early January 2011 the Albion Park Raceway was inundated by a major flood the worst since 1974 that necessitated the cessation of racing at the complex for some two weeks.

During this time there was one harness meeting abandoned and four other meetings transferred to other venues with greyhound racing having four meetings abandoned and one transferred to another venue.

Given the intensity of and the damage caused by the flood the return to racing for both codes in late January was truly remarkable.

The flood remediation work and clean-up at Albion Park undertaken by the management and staff of RQL, contractors and volunteers was responsible for this incredible turnaround that minimized disruption to racing at the complex.

All involved are to be congratulated on a fine effort that is greatly appreciated by RQL.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the great cooperation of Sky Racing who during the flood and immediately after was most accommodating in the relocation of meetings to other venues and in some cases the rescheduling of race meetings.



During the year under review RQL undertook a comprehensive review of the harness codes prizemoney and bonus scheme in an effort to better utilize the funds available.

This decision by the Board resulted in a much needed injection of just under a \$1 million to standard prizemoney levels that have been well received by the fraternity.

From 1st July 2011 there will be five TAB race meetings per week with all winners taking a career penalty for prizemoney levels of \$3001, \$4000, \$5000 and \$6000 with the metropolitan meeting racing for a minimum stake of \$11,000 and \$14,000 for the fast class race at the meeting.

Additionally, RQL has programmed 50 odd non TAB meetings for the coming season with prizemoney of \$1501 per race.

It is encouraging that field sizes have become more buoyant accounting for more attractive and competitive racing that will enhance the wagering opportunities for the product.

The QBred scheme that catered for two to 10-year-olds has been replaced with a more attractive incentive scheme (RQIS-Harness).

This scheme is focused on the juvenile that will no doubt engender more interest in the breeding and owning of a younger Standardbred that should assist in giving the breeding side of the industry a much needed boost.

This new scheme that caters for two and three-year-old Standardbred pacers by way of a substantial race winning bonus scheme and a noteworthy feature race schedule with annual exposure of \$1.36 million will come to fruition in the 2011/12 racing season.

The 2010/11 Harness Racing season in Queensland was another remarkable year that saw success on the national stage and local racing reach new heights.

It will be remembered for the Group One glory achieved by our Queenslanders, as the year our greatest pacer Blacks A Fake graced the race track for the final time and the year our young guns took giant steps towards future stardom.

It began as so many had before with the precursor to the Grand Circuit, as in 2008 and 2009 the Queensland Pacing Championship's prelude the Gold Coast Cup belonged to the purple and gold colours of Blacks A Fake with Natalie Rasmussen securing Blackie's third straight Cup.

However, the following week at Albion Park the tide of change arrived with Mr Feelgood USA and Luke McCarthy leading throughout to secure victory in the \$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship the first leg of the Grand Circuit.

The John McCarthy trained Washakie was the next Queenslander to secure Group One glory, his campaign to success gained momentum with a stunning performance at Menangle on the 7/8th circuit in 1:50.5 an Australasian record at the time.

Weeks later Washakie tasted Group One success at Bankstown in the Treuer Memorial holding off the gallant Blacks A Fake.

Mr Feelgood USA secured Queensland's third Grand Circuit victory with his win in the Group One Victoria Cup.

Year 2011 almost kicked off with another Group One but Washakie had to settle for the runner's up cheque in the Fremantle Cup in a stunning performance behind Im Themightyquinn.

Enter Darrel Graham after weeks of unsuccessful raids at Menangle the Group One titles arrived when star filly Courageous Annie secured the NSW Oaks and the four year old flyer Lanercost landed the coveted Chariot of Fire.

The 'Black and White' army also checked in for a Group One when locally bred filly Rosa Mach was victorious in the \$300,000 APG Final for two-year-old fillies at Menangle for the Dixon barn.

Our Grand Circuit stars headed across the 'ditch' for the Auckland Cup and Inter Dominion Championship returning with a second in the Cup for Mr Feelgood USA and a third for Blacks A Fake in his record breaking sixth Inter Dominion Grand Final.

Locally the QBred stars began to focus on the Breeder's Classic and the Triad with the boom three year old filly Forever Gold making it a clean sweep for Kylie Rasmussen.

Not to be outdone Torque In Motion and Western Mail cleaned up in both the four year old mares and two-year-old divisions of the QBred respectively.

Forever Gold's classic win in the Queensland Oaks stamped her a champ on the rise with Wayne Graham's star Mach Alert saluting in the Queensland Derby.

Blacks A Fake was at his vintage best in a dominating Sunshine Sprint victory and after the win word spread like wildfire that the champ would call it a day following the Winter Cup.

However, not all stories finish with a fairytale ending as Georgetown stole the limelight with a victory in the Group One feature.

Another highlight of the Winter Carnival was the feats of Bill Crosby's two-year-olds Western Mail and Shez No Fake securing the Triad double for the popular West Moreton owner/trainer.



On the local scene Bill Dixon, John McCarthy and John N McMullen continued to dominate, all recording 100 plus training achievements with Bill nearing the 300 mark.

In the sulky four centurions were honoured namely, Grant Dixon with a double century of wins, Peter McMullen, Shane Graham and Mathew Neilson all recording centuries.

In the breeding barn Bonomax stood proud as Queensland's leading sire topping the table at over 100 winners for the season, with Western Edition as the leading sire of two-year-olds, As Promised the leading sire of three-year-olds and the 'Hall of Famer' Fake Left USA the leading broodmare sire.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



During the 2010/11 season Racing and Wagering Western Australia paid out more than \$21.24 million in stakes and a further \$820,000 in Westbred Bonus payments.

These monies were paid out across 2318 races held at 285 meetings which provided 23,354 racing opportunities for 2162 individual starters.

This provides an average number of starts per starter of 10.03 and an amount of stakes available per starter of \$9,824.

The 23,354 starters in races were trained by 631 individual trainers with 61 trainers having 100 or more starters for the season and 14 having 200 or more starters. At the other end of the scale 127 trainers had less than 10 starters during the season.

There were 304 individual drivers in races and 101 of them had less than 10 race drives for the season.

Of the 393 Westbred 2:00 winning performances for the season 17 were recorded by the evergreen Has The Answers who bettered 2:00 in 17 of his 18 wins over the course of the season.

Has The Answers was one of six Western Australian bred pacers to better 1:55 during the season when he rated 1:53.0 over 1700 metres at Gloucester Park on 10th December 2010. It is the fastest time ever recorded on a half-mile track in Australia.

The other WA bred 1:55 performers during the season were David Hercules 1:52.7 and 1:54.8, Saab Quality 1:54.5, Aussie Terror 1:54.6 and Constant Addiction 1:55.

Has The Answers also became the first WA Bred pacer to pass the million dollar mark in earnings during the course of the season. His earnings at the end of the season stood at \$1,075,319 from 64 wins.

The State's star horse however was the Gary Hall trained Im Themightyquinn which during the course of the season won four Group One races in the WA Pacing Cup, Fremantle Cup, Cranbourne Cup and Auckland Cup on his way to winning the Australasian Grand Circuit Champion title.

The gelded son of Washington VC also won two heats of the Auckland Inter Dominion before finishing a gallant second to Smoken Up in the final.

A bumper crop of four-year-olds raced during the season with three of them recording Group One successes.

The Ross Olivieri trained Dasher VC won the Golden Nugget Championship while his stablemate Crombie won the McInerney Ford 4yo Classic. The David Thompson trained David Hercules was unplaced in both the Nugget and McInerney Ford but went to Victoria and won both the Vicbred and Breeders Crown finals.

The star WA bred three-year-old filly Artemis Belle proved to be one of the great bargains from the Western Australian Yearling Sales.

Bought principally as a broodmare by Collie owner/breeder John Bell for \$8000 at the 2009 sale, Artemis Belle won 11 of her 15 starts at three for stakes of \$202,055 to lift her career record to 17 wins in 23 starts and stakes of \$335,144.

Her biggest win for her trainer/driver Aldo Cortopassi came in the \$150,000 Group One WA Oaks when she triumphed over the New Zealand bred duo of I Have A Dream and Slick Bird.

The New Zealand bred gelding Seel N Print triumphed in the \$200,000 WA Derby over Shipwreck and Lovers Delight with junior driver Michael George celebrating his first Group One success.

Seel And Print gave his trainer Greg Bond his third WA Derby success in the past seven runnings of the race following on from wins with Richard Henry in 2005 and In The Force in 2009.

The star of the two-year-old season was undoubtedly the star WA Bred filly Sensational Gabby who lived up to her name on a number of occasions.

Trained by Greg Schofield, Sensational Gabby had nine starts and won the first eight of them including dual Group.



One success in the Diamond Classic and WA Sires Stakes finals. Her only defeat came at her last start when unplaced in the \$125,000 Group One Golden Slipper Stakes behind the New Zealand star Western Cullen.

Sensational Gabby's eight wins earned her a season's high stakes tally of \$164,400 well ahead of the leading colt Major Catastrophe.

Major Catastrophe won five of his eight starts for breeder/owner/trainer David Young including victory in the Group One Pearl Classic on his way the first season earnings of \$135,178.

Trainer Ross Olivieri won his eighth Perth trainers title with 112 winners and also took out the State Trainer's title with a total of 142 winners who earned more than \$2,072,000 in stakes. His biggest successes came with star two-year-old Western Cullen in the Golden Slipper Stakes and with star mare Ima Spicey Lombo in the Australian Pacing Championship.

Olivieri beat Gary Hall in both trainer's premierships.

Star reinsman Chris Lewis continued to break records as he powered to the State Drivers Premiership with a total of 196 winners, well clear of Morgan Woodley (162) and Shannon Suvaljko (139). It was the 23rd time overall and 18th successive season that Lewis has passed the 100 wins milestone.

Lewis was the only Australian driver to top the 100 wins mark on a metropolitan track and his total of 136 winners at Gloucester Park gave him a remarkable 28 successive top five finishes in the Perth Driver's Premiership.

Lewis enjoyed little luck as Australia's representative at the 2011 World Driver's Championship held in the USA although his greatness was recognised earlier in the season when he was inducted into the Western Australian Racing Industry Hall of Fame.

This tri-code event also saw the outstanding trainers Bill Johnson and Cliff Clarke inducted in the trainer/driver category and former Australian Harness Racing Council chairman Dr Ern Manea inducted as an administrator.

A trio of champion Western Australian pacers in Daintys Daughter, Pure Steel and Village Kid were also honoured as inductees.

Chris Voak emerged as the State's rising star among the junior drivers. He won both the Western Australian Rising Stars Series and then, as part of his prize, journeyed to New South Wales where he took out the New South Wales Rising Stars title.

The Pinjarra Harness Racing Club celebrated the opening of its new \$3 million dollar public facilities in June and the club now has facilities that are second to none in this State.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



During this year the HRSA Board implemented significant changes to the senior management team structure with new CEO, John Lewis appointed late in 2010. Appointments were also made in the new positions of Finance Manager and Racing Manager. John's appointment was as joint CEO of the HRSA authority and Globe Derby Park (GDP) after an historic agreement between HRSA and GDP. This new management structure was seen as essential to having the right mix in place of new and existing staff to take the industry forward.

At the time of writing this report the agreement of a joint CEO, funded entirely by HRSA for two years, has been successful in providing the management structure for the GDP's committee to reverse its current debt issues. GDP is a great venue with exciting development plans for the future that can only be fully realised with the right team in place, which was one of the reasons for the joint CEO agreement. A healthy GDP is an essential part of the future of harness racing in SA.

HRSA has continued to build on its successful change agenda of recent years and continued this theme with the Board signing off on new strategic and marketing plans. Following the development and subsequent adoption of the HRSA strategic plan, several new initiatives have already been implemented. A key initiative in 2011 was the decision to commence an additional racing day with Tuesday night racing at Globe Derby Park televised on Sky 1 to grow market share.

The installation of a permanent DVN Link at the Mt Gambier HRC in 2011 was a significant investment that will benefit both racing in the South-East and State turnover. We acknowledge the financial assistance of the State government in the funding of the DVN link.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Board and staff at HRA and HRSA for their efforts and personal support in my time on both Boards. Particular thanks to Geoff Want, Andrew Kelly and his team for their national leadership. Also thanks go to all those industry participants and clubs that contribute to our great sport.





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