

ANNUAL REPORT

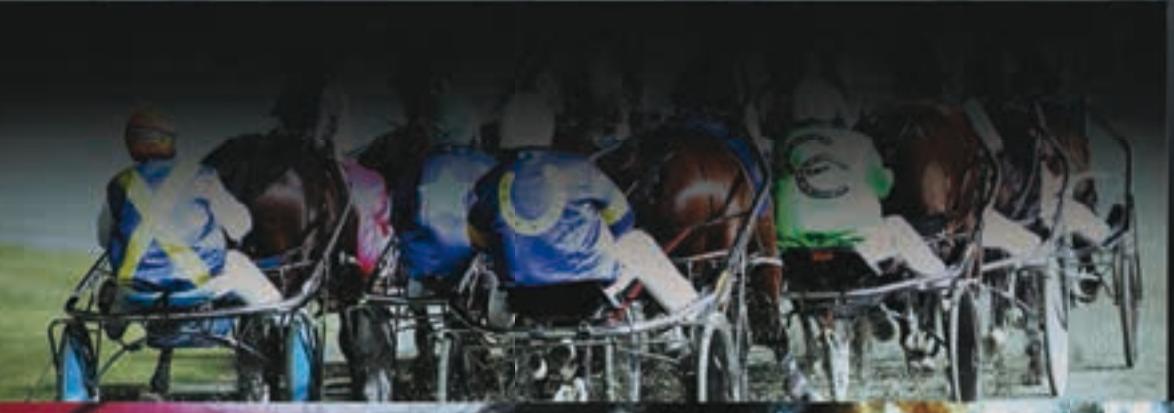


HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA

2013



9101





CONTENTS

Chairman's Report	04
CEO's Report	10
Industry Size and Scope Study	14
Focus On Welfare	18
Focus On Youth	20
HRA Awards	24
From The Track	26
National Stats	28
Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters	32
Standardbred Unharnessed	36
State Reports	38



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



GEOFF WANT CHAIRMAN

The harness racing industry makes a valuable contribution to the Australian economy and is not only a sport, leisure and entertainment pursuit, but also plays an important role in the environmental and social dimensions of the communities in which it is represented.

This is not the view of a biased participant or administrator, but some of the findings of independent analysts engaged to conduct one of the most critical projects undertaken by Harness Racing Australia in recent times, an economic impact evaluation of our industry.

Apart from providing an enormous amount of vital information to assist HRA members in their dealings with governments and business partners, the Size and Scope study of the harness racing industry in Australia should be a timely reminder for administrators and participants alike that we have an important and viable industry that needs to be protected and nurtured.

There are plenty of issues to be dealt with in harness racing and there are no easy answers, but we need to be focused on meeting the challenges rather than bemoaning the negatives.

The Size and Scope study, conducted by the leading strategic consulting business IER Pty Ltd, will be dealt with in more detail elsewhere in the annual report, but there are some other points worth mentioning. These include:

- The harness racing industry in Australia contributes more than \$1.4 billion in value added to Gross National Product
- More than 19,000 people rely on harness racing, in part or totally, for their livelihood
- More than 48,400 individuals are involved in the process of producing and preparing standardbreds for racing
- More than half a billion dollars is spent on producing and preparing racing stock
- Over 326 community organisations or charities are assisted financially by harness racing clubs and more than 460 community organisations share racing club facilities and resources.

These, and other findings of the study, are impressive numbers, a point that has not been lost on state and federal politicians and bureaucrats who have been briefed since the report was released in May. HRA co-ordinated a lobbying campaign for members to

ensure the study's findings were widely disseminated and understood, a process that will continue in the coming year.

RACING HIGHLIGHTS

It has been another outstanding year on our racetracks with some stellar performances by horses, drivers and trainers.

Western Australia's dynamic pacer

Im Themightyquinn scored a brilliant victory in the revamped Inter Dominion championship at Tabcorp Park Menangle. This, along with wins in the WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park and the Auckland Cup at Alexandra Park, ensured he was crowned 2012/13 Grand Circuit champion, making it a three-peat, after wins in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 seasons.

His third Inter Dominion triumph also saw Im Themightyquinn inducted into the Inter Dominion Hall of Fame. The mighty gelding, trained by Gary Hall senior and driven by his son Gary, won 12 races and more than a million dollars during the season.

Im Themightyquinn was a deserved winner of the Horse of the Year title.

Tabcorp Park Menangle was also the venue for a thrilling Miracle Mile, with the emerging star Baby Bling earning Grand Circuit honours when she prevailed over a talented field. She also won the Group One Mares Classic at Gloucester Park and four other races during the season.

Mah Sish proved his Ballarat Pacing Cup victory was no fluke with a tough Grand Circuit win in the AG Hunter Cup at Tabcorp Park Melton, while nine-year-old gelding Washakie made light of his age by winning the opening Grand Circuit race of the season, the Queensland Pacing Championship, at Albion Park. Washakie also scored in the Group One Treuer Memorial at Bankstown and five other races.

Exciting colt Caribbean Blaster was brilliant in winning his first Grand Circuit race, the Victoria Cup at Tabcorp Park Melton, and was considered a near certainty in the South Australian Cup at Globe Derby Park a few weeks later. But the pundits had forgotten about the class and fighting spirit of the ageing warrior Smoken Up.

Caribbean Blaster looked to have the race in his keeping on the home turn but Smoken Up refused to yield and the two horses waged a war down the straight, urged on by a boisterous crowd. It was racetrack theatre at its best and Smoken Up responded to win one of the most memorable races of the season.

The trotting equivalent of the pacing grand circuit, the Trotting Masters, featured two new events during the year – the Glenferrie Farm Challenge at Tabcorp Park Menangle and the Great Southern Star at Tabcorp Park Melton.

Kiwi champion I Can Doosit won the opening race of the Trotting Masters at Addington in Christchurch before his season was cut short by injury and another

New Zealander, the Tim Butt-trained Vulcan, found form to take out the series.

Keystone Del, representing Australia despite his New Zealand heritage, upset the better fancied runners in the Glenferrie Farm Challenge, but Vulcan would not be denied when the Trotting Masters series moved to Melton.

Vulcan won the Australian Trotting Grand Prix at Melton and then took out the inaugural Great Southern Star, an exciting event based on the famed Elitloppet in Sweden and featuring heats and a final on the same program. Vulcan's exploits gained him Trotter of the Year honours.

Apart from the stars racing in the Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters and a host of other open-class events, the season also saw the emergence of some exciting youngsters destined for bigger things. Many of these were in action at a fabulous finale to the Australasian Breeders Crown series at Tabcorp Park Melton late in the season.

Harness Racing Victoria is to be congratulated for developing the Great Southern Star and for its efforts to promote the trotting gait. It is to be hoped this unique event will continue to grow in popularity and get the widespread recognition it deserves.

Congratulations are also due to the NSW Harness Racing Club and Harness Racing NSW for their efforts to reinvigorate the Inter Dominion Pacing Championship. The concept of qualifying heats in Auckland, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney with a grand final two weeks later at Tabcorp Park Menangle was ridiculed by some who find it difficult to break with tradition, regardless of the underlying reasons for the need to change.

Most reasonable people accepted it was a necessary attempt to reinvigorate the Inter Dominion and, regardless of the changes, it would still feature the best horses in a demanding final. Despite the critics, it was a resounding success, with a good crowd enjoying fabulous racing and another Im Themightyquinn victory.

Wagering turnover was strong and there is every indication that the event will be even better in the next two years at magnificent Menangle, which has just undergone a \$25 million upgrade.

The economic impact study commissioned by the Inter Dominion Event Committee also told a positive story, with the event generating gross economic benefit of more than \$10 million dollars.

It wasn't only the horses starring during the year. Victorian Chris Alford was the leading driver in Australia during the season with 295 wins while the highly talented Greg Sugars moved to another level with 257 victories.

Western Australian ace Gary Hall junior drove 241 winners but was the most successful driver on metropolitan tracks, saluting on 101 occasions.

One of the outstanding band of young drivers,

Amanda Turnbull, was the leading driver in NSW, the 23-year-old winning an amazing 203 races. Another fabulous young female driver, Lauren Panella, recorded 179 wins.

Queensland trainer Grant Dixon did not allow his battle with cancer to severely impact his season and again emerged as the nation's leading trainer with 226 winners, 158 of which he drove.

INDUSTRY FUNDING

The fabulous racing and the exploits of wonderful horses and drivers can, however, easily mask some of the issues clouding our industry, especially with wagering turnover and trends.

Wagering sustains our industry and there are some serious issues pertaining to turnover which must be addressed if funding is not to be impacted.

In the past decade the industry struggled to overcome the threat posed by the growth of corporate bookmakers, who attacked the licensed pari-mutuel operators and undermined the industry's traditional funding model.

Harness Racing New South Wales played a key role, in a lengthy legal battle, in ensuring the corporates had to pay a commission to wager on their events. Harness Racing Victoria had a similar win in court, with the result that all states now get 1-1.5 per cent turnover commission from bookmakers.

While the return from corporate bookmakers is less than the industry receives from the totalisator operators and their pari-mutuel pools – in both the percentage of turnover and overall monetary terms – it is a positive step in the right direction for a just return from anyone using our product for wagering purposes.



In an effort to compete with the corporates, the TABs introduced fixed odds betting, which has become increasingly popular. While it is necessary to meet the needs of punters – and there is no doubt fixed odds betting has strong appeal – it is ironic that the cure is not necessarily in the best financial interests of harness racing.

As fixed odds turnover increases, pari-mutuel turnover drops and the industry's return from the former is considerably less.

In the financial year to the end of July 2013, harness racing turnover on totalisators nationally, both on and off course, was almost \$1.7 billion (\$1,697 million), a fall of 2.8 per cent on the previous year, or some \$50 million.

Of this total, \$203 million was invested on fixed odds, an increase during the year of almost 96 per cent. Pari-mutuel wagering fell by 9 per cent or some \$150 million.

During the year, fixed odds accounted for almost 12 per cent of all TAB turnover.

Investments with bookmakers on course continued to spiral downwards with a further drop of 28.61 per cent to \$4.6 million.

Conversely, turnover with corporate bookmakers continued to grow rapidly, with a 32.33 per cent increase to \$463.8 million – or about \$113 million. Turnover with the corporates was 21.42 per cent of the national wagering total on harness racing, up from 16.67 per cent the previous year.

Total turnover from all sources was up 2.97 per cent at \$2.166 billion. This figure does not include money matched on betting exchanges.

The dominant exchange operator, Betfair, had net customer winnings – the criteria used to determine commission payments to the industry – of some \$130 million, down slightly on the previous year.

It should be obvious that if these trends continue, allied with the threat to harness racing wagering from the significant growth of sports betting and such things as internet casinos, our industry will have serious funding concerns in coming years.

HRA decided late in the year to appoint a special committee to examine these wagering issues and make recommendations as to how industry funding can be boosted. Various matters have been discussed at different times and there are no easy answers, but it is hoped the committee can make some progress on this critical subject.

LOBBYING CAMPAIGN

During the past year HRA has continued to lobby federal and state members of parliament for national legislation to govern the funding of the racing industry, in line with the recommendations of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling. It is our belief this could be achieved without the states giving up control over regulatory functions, state taxation regimes or commercial matters.

We have also continued to press for the *Interactive Gambling Act (2001)* to be strengthened to prevent exploitation by wagering operators who are not approved by Australian regulators.

A primary thrust of our lobbying has been to ensure harness racing is not damaged by legislative change brought about by concerns among politicians and regulators over forms of gambling such as sports betting and gaming machines.

HRA also welcomes the opportunity to attend the Australasian Racing Ministers' conference each year. We recognise it is not easy to schedule busy ministers to attend these forums, but they are a worthwhile exercise and provide an opportunity for the three codes of racing to communicate with ministers as a group on a range of issues.

INTEGRITY

Every harness racing administrator understands that integrity is of critical importance. It is imperative not only that the punting public has confidence in the integrity of our industry, but also that every participant knows their honest endeavours are not being undermined by the illegal activities of others.

Harness racing has an outstanding integrity regime and I congratulate the stewards and administrators who strive to ensure our industry is as clean as possible. Anyone who attempts to influence the outcome of a race by using prohibited substances or engaging in other illegal activities is guilty of fraud and must be punished to the full extent of the law.

It is reassuring to see the punishments being meted out to the participants who were involved in the racket unearthed in New South Wales in mid-2011, whereby stewards were allegedly paid not to carry out tests for prohibited substances on certain horses.

There have been a number of hefty disqualifications and four participants and a steward have appeared before the courts. Two, Dean Atkinson and Cameron Fitzpatrick, were ordered to perform community service as part of their sentences and both have also been disqualified by Harness Racing NSW, Atkinson for 10 years and Fitzpatrick for 15.

Michael Russo received a 2.5 year prison sentence while charges against former leading driver Greg Bennett have yet to be heard.

Former steward Paul O'Toole was given a three-year jail sentence with a non-parole period of 18 months for his role in the scandal.

Harness Racing NSW is to be commended for the professional manner in which they dealt with this unsavoury matter which, despite the adverse publicity it attracted, has demonstrated the effectiveness of our industry's integrity measures.

These measures include the continued development of the International Racing Information and Intelligence Service. HRA has formally joined with a number of countries, including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France and New Zealand, to develop a resource by which jurisdictions can communicate and share intelligence information around the globe at anytime.

BROADCASTING

Harness racing gained marvellous exposure in early March when the final of the Inter Dominion was covered live on the Nine Network, the first time in many years that our product had been showcased so extensively on



free-to-air television. This provided an opportunity to expand our audience reach beyond the devotees who normally watch Sky Racing.

The industry's relationship with Sky Racing, which also provided magnificent coverage of the Inter Dominion series, is generally harmonious although there are a number of issues that need to be resolved.

In mid-2012 all HRA members, except those in Queensland, signed Deeds of Agency appointing HRA as their agent to discuss a range of concerns with Sky Racing. Some discussions have taken place since then although Sky has been reluctant to make any concessions on most of the issues, which primarily involve concerns about the existing broadcast rights agreements.

It is to be hoped that progress can be made on these matters in the year ahead, especially in the area of new media.

Some progress has been made on the crucial matter of race scheduling, where product placement and lead-in times have a direct, and major, impact on wagering activity. Sky has endeavoured to be fair to all codes and clubs in this matter over the years, but certain thoroughbred interests have attempted in recent times to control scheduling to their benefit – and to the detriment of others who share the Sky Racing channels.

The issue has been exacerbated by Sky's insatiable desire for more racing product, which has resulted in considerable congestion on its channels.

Just as scheduling can have a significant impact on wagering turnover, Sky is a necessary part of any product initiatives that harness racing attempts to introduce.

It is therefore disappointing when our business partner hampers the implementation of product developments, which it is hoped will attract new fans and grow wagering.

Hotshots was conceived in early 2009, when Sky was approached to discuss the project. Apart from televising and promoting the event, it was necessary for Sky to make some technical adjustments to enhance the coverage.

We accepted it would take some time to undertake this work and to reorganise schedules to ensure Hotshots was successful. Despite several target dates

being provided, we are still no closer to trialling the product, with May 2014 the latest projected launch date. Attempts are being made to get Sky to expedite this matter.

Hotshots is intended to be a one-lap, eight-across the front mobile start sprint which will involve new camera angles, interaction with drivers via audio equipment, different styles of race call and coloured identification of horses. It has been trialled in part by clubs, notably with the Flying K series in NSW, but hopefully we will get to see it as a finished product in the near future.

MARKETING

One of the more satisfying developments of the past year was the decision by HRA members to undertake a national marketing campaign.

We do not have the marketing clout of the organisations with which we are competing for the leisure dollar, so it is sensible to combine our resources where possible to become more effective in promoting our brand. Hopefully the We Will TROT You campaign will be the first positive step in a collaborative approach to promoting harness racing throughout Australia.



I have long advocated a national media centre to focus on increasing the exposure of harness racing across all media. Administrators and participants alike can lament the lack of harness racing coverage in mainstream media but there will be no return to the situation of three decades ago.

Instead we need to concentrate on targeted coverage in newspapers, magazines, radio and

television while continuing to embrace digital media. There are some great stories to be told about our industry, but we need to ensure we take a different approach.

I do not understand why there are state-based industry magazines, when it would be more cost effective – and probably a better read – to have one national publication.

Similarly, Trots TV has been a marvellous initiative by Harness Racing NSW where it is guided by people with extensive television experience. This should be a national undertaking and could be a vital component of an industry-wide new media plan.

BREEDING

There has been gradual implementation of the recommendations contained in the Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel Report of September 2011, although the proposed national broodmare credit scheme is unlikely to become a reality. In discussing the recommendations, HRA members expressed a clear preference for state-based schemes to provide support and incentives to the breeding industry.

There is no doubt, however, that the panel's work has had a positive impact. It was established to determine the current health and trends of the breeding industry and to develop a plan to stimulate the future growth of breeding and ownership of broodmares and racehorses; the findings will continue to frame many of HRA's initiatives to support breeders for some time to come.

It was pleasing to be able to announce in August that up to \$500,000 will be released to state controlling bodies in the coming year for breeding-related activities, such as credit schemes, win bonuses or other localised programs determined by the individual state.

One of the panel's recommendations to be adopted during the year by HRA members was for an increase in the import fee for horses entering Australia from the beginning of April.

Other measures taken this year as a result of the panel's report include the collection of real-time service data from studs and approval for a pilot artificial breeding short course via the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE, in preparation for the 2013/14 breeding season.

WORLD TROTTING CONFERENCE

It was a pleasure to lead the Australian delegation to the World Trotting Conference, held in Paris in June. The week-long conference addressed a number of subjects and there was considerable debate at extensive committee sessions.

An inescapable fact is that all member countries of the International Trotting Association face common issues, essentially with animal welfare, integrity, growing the fan base, wagering and funding threats, breeding and attracting new owners.

The World Driver's Championship was conducted

in conjunction with the conference and NSW reinsman Neil Day was a personable and popular Australian representative. Neil did not have much luck in the draws for horses and could not win one of the 20 races staged over some of France's finest tracks, but he was a fine ambassador for Australian harness racing.

The next world conference will be held in Sydney in March 2015.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are several other subjects worthy of coverage, including HRA's animal welfare initiatives, but these will be covered elsewhere in the annual report.

HRA and Harness Racing New Zealand co-operate on a wide range of issues and there is an excellent relationship between the organisations. It is a pleasure to work with chairman Gary Allen and chief executive officer Edward Rennell and their colleagues.

I must thank members of the HRA Executive Committee for their work and support during the past year, and also acknowledge the contribution made by so many people who serve on our various committees and working parties.

The team at HRA's Melbourne office is a dedicated and committed group, under the leadership of chief executive officer Andrew Kelly, and they do a wonderful job. My thanks to them for their continuing efforts, and also to our excellent legal counsel, Dean Cooper.

CONCLUSION

This report began with reference to the Size and Scope study and the positive message conveyed therein. There has also been reference to some of the issues impacting on our industry and to the challenges we face.

We need to embrace these challenges with confidence, knowing we have a great industry which can continue to make a valuable contribution to the national economy and, more importantly, to the social life of many Australians.

GEOFF WANT
CHAIRMAN



CEO'S REPORT



**ANDREW
KELLY
CEO**

In last year's report I telegraphed that the year ahead looked busy as a number of important policy initiatives were under review by Harness Racing Australia (HRA) including horse identification (microchipping), the Grand Circuit and national funding model via centralised registration – and so it was, plus some.

I'm pleased to report success on all of these fronts, with HRA's participation in the National Microchipping Taskforce paving the way for 'accredited persons' rather than strictly only veterinarians (in all states other than Victoria) able to microchip horses, dramatically reducing associated costs; Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters enhancements implemented including a \$20,000 Australian Pacing Gold bonus added to the prize pool for both the Grand Circuit Champion and Trotting Masters Champion; and an initial step toward central registration with the implementation of administrative changes to the Import Fee.

During the year HRA also strengthened networks with governments at all levels. An important tool in establishing credibility and attracting the attention of governments and government departments has been to quantify the economic, employment, production, social and participation rates of our industry via independent analysts. The resultant Size and Scope study of the Australian harness racing industry, released in May 2013, provides an invaluable insight into each of these areas and is a persuasive instrument from which to mount arguments for legislative or regulatory amendments which ensure the future viability of a large and important industry – harness racing.

Industry-related government lobbying campaigns included gambling reform and industry funding protection via the review the Interactive Gambling Act (IGA), criminal sanctions for race fixing and taxation reform for breeders. Recommendations emanating from the IGA review are supported by HRA and their implementation will be closely monitored, while it was pleasing to see all states and territories move toward including race fixing within match fixing legislation.

Other important advancements with government included successful lobbying for the moderation of the Import Risk Assessment for post-arrival quarantine and the integration of training facilities into the new quarantine station at Mickleham, just north of Melbourne's CBD, to be opened on 1 January 2016. These important changes, many of which took effect

on 1 August 2013, will reduce a number of the obstacles and burdens previously faced by importers of racing stock, mares, pregnant mares and fillies via less invasive testing procedures, shorter quarantine time, altered surveillance regimes, reduced costs and an ability to maintain a better level of fitness. It is hoped these hard fought changes will see more visitors from North America, Scandinavia and Europe participating in Australian racing and breeding activities.

While the work and commitment of HRA to the re-homing of Standardbreds post racing is adequately covered elsewhere in this report, it is worth recognising the continued advancements and monitoring of equine welfare and integrity practices within our industry. It is pleasing to report that racing injuries, inclusive of horses euthanised during the year (3 in total), dropped significantly in almost all categories of year-on-year analysis. This was complemented by increased testing for prohibited substances and a lift in the average number of starts per horse to a record high 11.7 starts per season.

Further work with integrity related to competition and prohibited substance-based rules are continuing to be reviewed with an eye to strengthening in the near future; HRA's retrospective testing capabilities have been shared with international jurisdictions with an intent to developing a uniform approach.



Industry disease response plans and preparedness functions have also been a focus during the year, particularly with the development of a vaccine for Hendra Virus and HRA's 'normal' commitments within the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and Ausvet Plan. The lessons learned from Equine Influenza continue to be built upon to mitigate risk for future outbreaks in tandem with other livestock sectors.



The continued development of the national insurance scheme has also been a highlight of the past year. It is pleasing to report that HRA has been able to negotiate and implement a number of significant enhancements for licence holders:

- Additional personal accident cover levels of \$2,000 and \$3,500 per week are available for participants to purchase (up from the base of \$600 that the policy provides)
- Access to personal accident insurance is available for people who work part-time in the industry who, in the past, have struggled to find income protection cover for their outside income
- There is now access to previously unavailable personal accident insurance for stablehands in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria
- Travel insurance offers are at extremely competitive rates
- Private health insurance offers are at extremely competitive rates.

The health and safety of industry participants is never far from our minds, hence our unwavering commitment to gear and equipment testing. However, testing and approval protocols can only extend so far, with the manner in which this approved equipment is used, maintained and repaired remaining the responsibility of participants themselves.

While unfortunate, inevitably, accidents do happen from time to time. Participants are encouraged to keep their gear and equipment well maintained at all times, along with providing a safe working environment for employees and visitors.

The internationalisation of our industry continued to evolve, with an increase in the exchange of product and knowledge with international jurisdictions during 2012/13. It is hoped this growth can continue with the addition of Scandinavian product by early 2014, the export of more trotting races to Europe and the previously detailed improvements in Australian quarantine protocols.

The popularity of monté racing in Australia continued to grow throughout the year, moving quickly from exhibition ranks to legitimate trotting product status – as it is in many international jurisdictions. Uniform rules have been drafted for inclusion into the Australian Rules of Harness Racing and will be debated at the annual general meeting of HRA in October.

Progress on many of the initiatives raised within the highly praised Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel Report and designed to assist breeders continued during the year. These included enhancements to HarnessWeb to accept real-time service data direct from studs; the percentage of fillies and mares only races continued to grow; up to \$500,000 was made available from HRA for breeding initiatives at a local

state level; a pilot Artificial Breeding short course was established via the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE; website access and presentation of performance data was improved; and investment committed to Standardbred re-homing initiatives.

Looking ahead, a new industry marketing campaign titled We Will TROT You will be launched in October 2013. Set to the music of Queen's iconic rock anthem, We Will Rock You, the campaign has been designed in a way that all harness clubs across the country can be involved and have access to quality materials to promote their events locally – a truly collaborative approach to an issue that can be both difficult and costly for many clubs within the industry.

It has again been an honour to serve the HRA and wider industry on these and other important activities throughout the year.

The success and relevance of HRA is also dependent on a large number of people who contribute so willingly to the national harness racing landscape. I sincerely thank the numerous HRA committee members, led by their respective Chairmen in Dean Cooper (Chairman of Stewards & National Rules) and Peter Bourke (Equine Breeding, Animal Welfare & Registration), along with Dr Judith Medd (Regulatory Veterinarians) for their participation, significant contributions and patience.

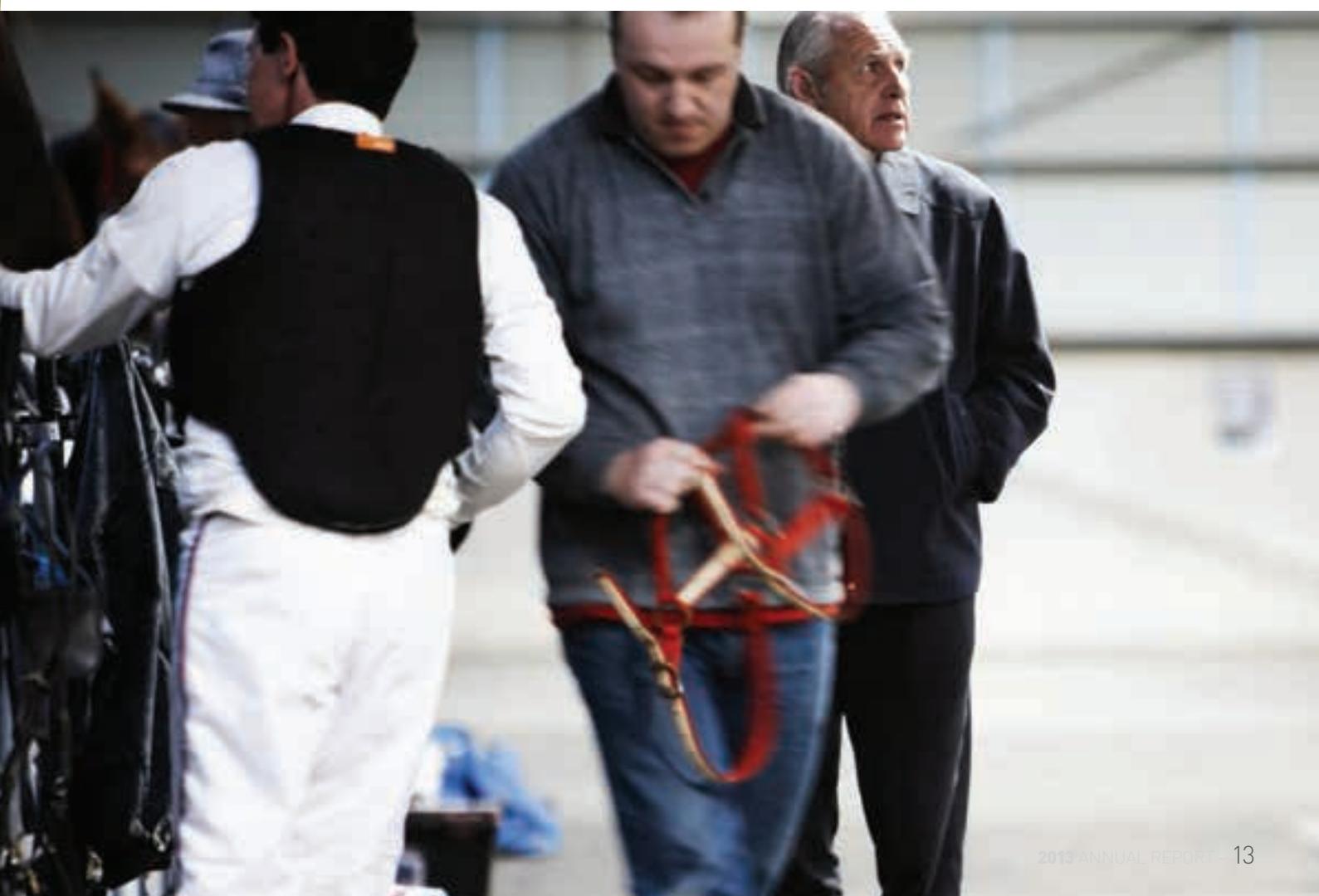
Vital to the success of HRA is the relationship with our members. I would like to thank their boards, chief executives and senior management for their continued support, guidance and confidence given the day-to-day challenges of their own organisations.

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

And finally, a massive thank you to all of the staff at HRA for their enthusiasm and effort. So many roles within our organisation require commitment over and above what is possible to describe in a job description. Your dedication cannot be questioned and it is greatly appreciated.



ANDREW KELLY
CEO



INDUSTRY SIZE AND SCOPE STUDY

reeds success
evelerstud.co.nz

Harness Racing Australia, in partnership with Harness Racing New Zealand, has for a number of years commissioned reports on the economic impact of the Inter Dominion carnivals. These have been well received and used by the host clubs to showcase how both they and the wider community have benefited economically. These have been used by clubs and state controlling bodies to assist in sponsorship and to showcase the industry.

Based on the success of these specific targeted reports, HRA embarked on a project to provide definitive research on the size and scope of the harness racing industry in Australia. In drawing assistance from each of the state controlling bodies, owners, trainers, breeders and other allied industries and in focusing on the 2012 financial year, the comprehensive report was released on 13 May 2013.

Rather than just focusing on the economic benefits, the report also looked at the social benefits that flow to the local communities. There was little doubt from the outcomes that the harness racing industry is very much the heart and soul of many local communities.

KEY FINDINGS – NATIONAL IMPACTS

The size of the industry is not fully appreciated until you start to look at some of the actual figures. With racing taking place in five mainland states, the ACT and Tasmania, the number of people directly affected is quite significant. In all there are 116 harness racing clubs spread across Australia and these clubs conduct a total of 1,928 meetings per year. There are more than 15,000 races with the average Standardbred having in excess of nine race starts per year. More than 1 million people attended the trots in the 2012 year.

When looking at these figures the size of the industry becomes more apparent and the spin-off to other industries including veterinary, feed merchants, fuel suppliers, horse husbandry and general merchandise suppliers starts to add up to some pretty significant numbers. It is estimated that the total spend in the industry is in excess of \$1.4 billion dollars and there is a direct provision of 13,000 full-time employment opportunities.

KEY FINDINGS – BREEDING AND RACING IMPACTS

More than 48,000 individuals are involved in the process of producing and preparing Standardbreds for racing in Australia. The 24,000 owners provide significant capital investment into the industry. Total spending in relation to the production of foals through breeding is in excess of \$113 Million. Victoria is the largest generator of expenditure within this sector with \$53 million followed by NSW with \$25 million. This is a significant spend, and vital to the rural and regional communities in which the majority of the expenditure occurs.

Once the racehorse makes it to the training and racing stage of its life, there is a further \$398 million spent on this. When this expenditure is combined there is in excess of half a billion dollars in producing and

preparing Standardbreds to race. Of this more than 60 per cent is in rural and regional areas of Australia, making it a significant industry.

KEY FINDINGS – SOCIAL

The study also delved into the social fabric of the clubs and what they mean to the local community. It soon became apparent that there is more to a club than just providing a race meeting on its tracks. It was found that in excess of 300 community organisations or charities are assisted directly financially by racing clubs. A further 460 community organisations share the local harness racing club facilities.



More than three quarters of all clubs actively display and promote their heritage and history. Many have historians who are continuing to discover facts that some thought would be lost forever. There is a very proud tradition in harness racing that has clear links to the communities in which they are located.

Clubs are also active in providing further education and training opportunities to staff and over 25% have an active relationship with secondary, trade or tertiary organisations. The same number of clubs promote work experience opportunities.

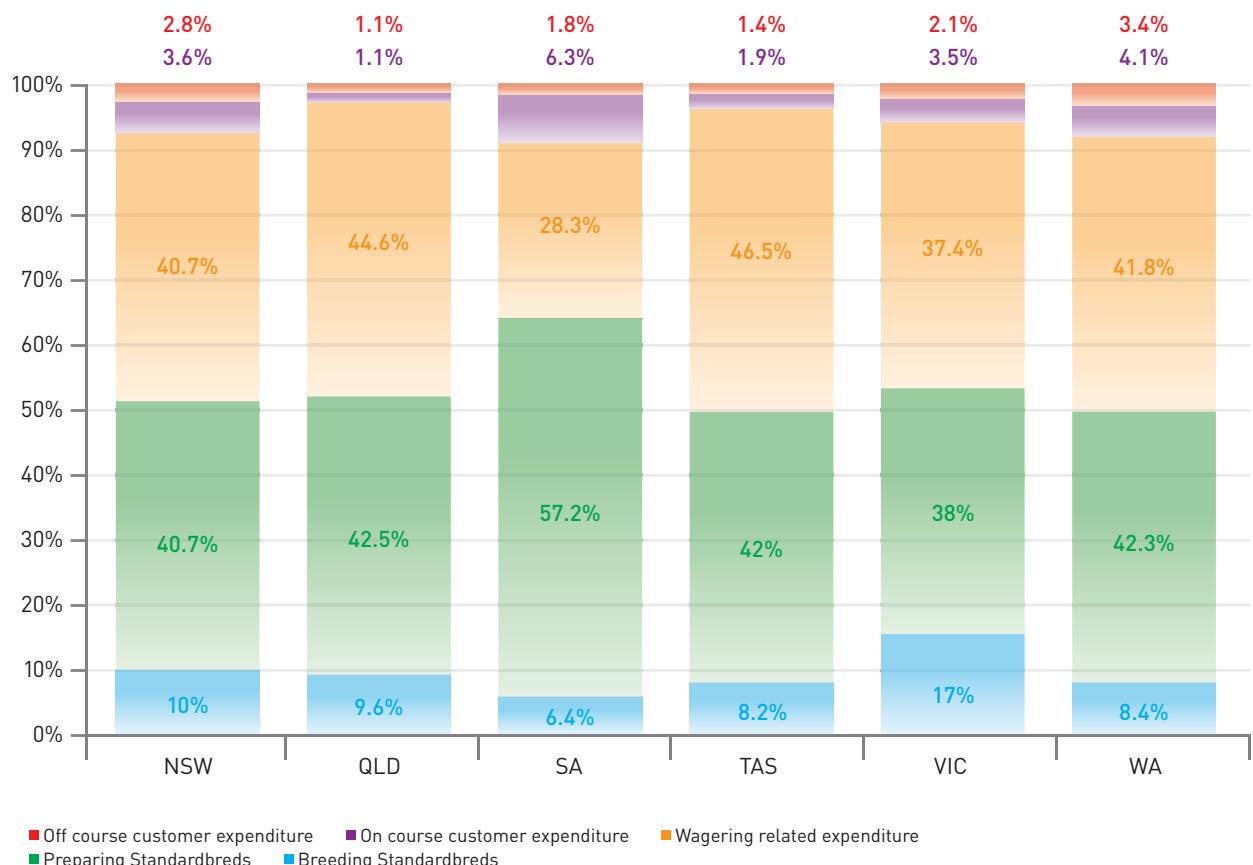
It was also pleasing to note that a significant number of clubs work on renewable energy and have recycled water programs in place and actively promote environmental awareness including the provision of wetlands and the regeneration of natural flora and fauna.

So the average harness racing club is a little more than just a place to go and see the horses. It is a key element of one's community and is working hard to continue to provide a vital link to the prosperity of the region. These facts have been delivered to every politician in Australia so that they are aware of the good work taking place by so many dedicated staff, volunteers and participants.

KEY STATS

- 4,683 trainers
- 1,184 drivers
- 24,000+ owners
- 4,500 foals
- \$1.4 billion total spend
- \$105 million in prizemoney

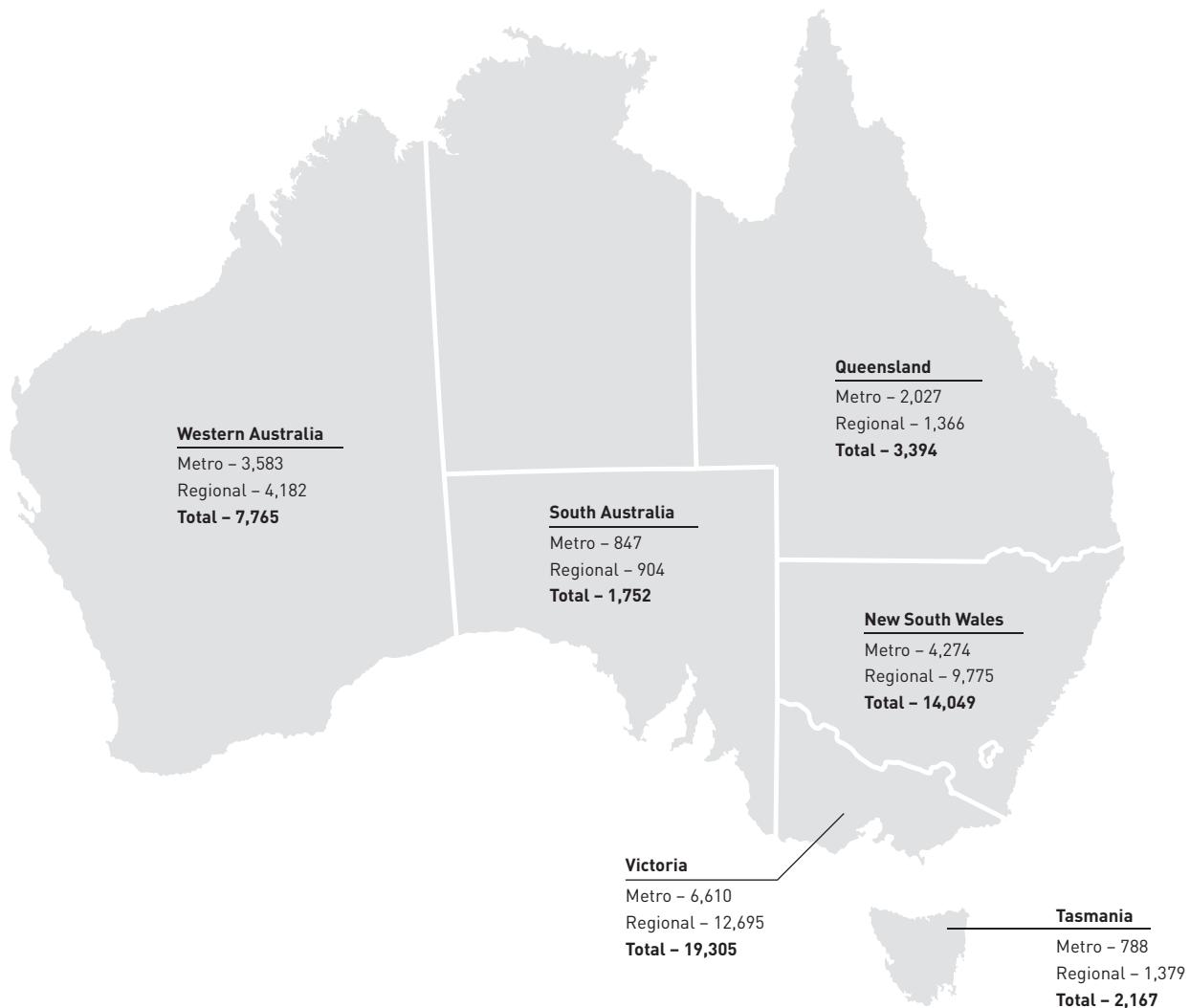
PROPORTIONAL EXPENDITURE BY STATE



VALUE ADDED GENERATED IN EACH STATE – METRO V REGIONAL



TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN RACING



	New South Wales	Queensland	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia	Total
Breeders	1,577	294	189	150	3,048	296	5,554
Breeders Staff	1,672	211	163	70	2,441	372	4,929
Owners & Syndicate Owners	7,489	2,030	575	1,145	7,850	5,057	24,145
Trainers (All Classes)	299	172	184	115	1,360	254	2,384
Trainer/Driver	724	226	160	98	708	433	2,349
Registered Drivers	128	38	57	55	844	62	1,184
Stable Staff	391	205	184	137	1,330	286	2,533
Participants in Producing Racing Animals	12,280	3,176	1,512	1,770	17,581	6,760	43,078
Full Time Club Staff	47	3	4	2	39	29	124
Part Time Club Staff	24	1	3	10	57	45	140
Casual/Contractor Club Staff	447	44	84	113	661	384	1,733
Club Volunteer	785	66	18	191	461	437	1,958
Barrier/Stable Attendants & Track Maintenance	155	35	60	45	190	29	514
Stewards	10	8	6	5	10	17	56
Farriers	73	6	18	4	49	31	181
Industry Vets	178	40	37	17	187	18	477
Participants in Producing the Racing Product	1,719	203	230	387	1,654	990	5,183
Industry Administration Staff	50	15	10	10	70	15	170
TOTAL	14,049	3,394	1,752	2,167	19,305	7,765	48,431



FOCUS ON WELFARE

Harness Racing Australia's corporate governance role encompasses a diverse and broad-ranging number of responsibilities.

In 2012/13, few were more challenging and rewarding than our commitment to developing and nurturing opportunities for Standardbred horses outside the traditional racing and breeding environment.

Acknowledging both a moral responsibility to the wellbeing of the nation's significant Standie population, and the breed's renaissance among the wider equine community, HRA consolidated the foundations of a long-term plan.

The formalisation of a supply agreement with Riding Develops Abilities (RDA, formerly Riding For The Disabled) will be key to the success of the project.

The commitment, which is critically important to our industry's reputation within the animal welfare sphere, provides for a minimum of two purpose-educated and trained Standardbreds to be donated to RDA centres for riding and/or carriage programs in each participating state during 2013/14.

HRA and the industry have committed an enormous amount of time and energy into many of the pleasure Standardbred activities and in fostering the RDA initiative.

HRA also conquered a major obstacle through extensive negotiations with Equestrian Australia (EA), the national umbrella organisation for horse sports, which led to a ground-breaking Partnership Agreement.

EA has promised to actively promote retired and unviable pacers and trotters as suitable for all horse disciplines and work to remove long-standing biases against the breed through education and promotion.

The endorsement will go a long way towards dispelling many of the myths that have surrounded the breed and has the potential to open doors that were previously inaccessible to Standardbred riders.

It also comes at an ideal time, with the first Standardbred contesting the 2013 Garryowen Equestrienne Turnout Competition at the Royal Melbourne Show.

HRA was proud to provide sponsorship support for official breed ambassador Kathleen Mullan and her stunning chestnut gelding MF Hollywood in her quest to win Australia's most prestigious showing event for female riders.

A 2007 son of P Forty Seven and Late Tiffany, MF Hollywood failed to place in four race starts as Hollywood Dan but has earned unprecedented respect within the showing community for his achievements in hand and under saddle.

Standardbreds will receive further valuable exposure at Equitana 2013, the most anticipated biennial equine event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, which attracts over 50,000 visitors.

Following an enormously successful promotion in

2011, HRA has secured a prime display position within the Breed Village at this year's event, to be staged in Sydney.

Members of the New South Wales Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association will provide demonstration horses and donate their time to speak with members of the public about the ridden Standie's attributes and abilities.

HRA continues to foster a growing sense of teamwork and co-operation between the state controlling bodies and Standardbred associations, and its ongoing work in this area has been integral to the successes of the past 12 months.

Harness racing industry participants have never been more committed to or invested in the long-term future of their equine partners.

Likewise, the pleasure Standardbred movement has never had a greater understanding of the specific retraining and education needs of the racing athletes it inherits.



To this end, HRA has been pleased to work hand in hand with the Thoroughbred Riding Group which strives to achieve similarly positive outcomes for retired and unviable racing-bred Thoroughbreds.

The Group has had a strong focus on developing specific show opportunities for off-the-track racehorses and HRA has secured reciprocal 'best of' categories for Standardbreds.

In addition we have provided sponsorship to various associations and organisations throughout Australia, to support and acknowledge their passion for promoting the breed and creating opportunities for Standies within the equine pleasure environment.

This sponsorship was extended to include the procurement of blanket insurance coverage, which protects those who participate in ridden Standardbred demonstrations and displays at race meetings and other official HRA events.

The final piece of the welfare project puzzle for 2012/13 was the development of the Standardbreds Unharnessed Australia website – www.sau.org.au

Designed as a national tool, the website is complemented by a Facebook page and will ultimately serve as a one-stop shop for both pleasure Standardbred enthusiasts and members of the public interested in learning more about the equine world's most under-rated breed.

A collage of three images. The top image shows a man in a flight suit and helmet, looking down at something in his hands. The bottom-left image is a close-up of a woman's face wearing a flight helmet. The bottom-right image shows a man in a flight suit and helmet, smiling. The background is dark and textured.

**FOCUS
ON
YOUTH**

Contemporary Japanese writer Haruki Murakami once said “if you’re young and talented, it’s like you have wings”.

His insightful words rang true for the youth of Australia’s training and driving ranks who soared to staggering heights in the 2012/13 harness racing season.

Indeed, if the new generation of participants is the future of the industry we pride and love, then their achievements of the past 12 months would suggest we’re in capable hands.

“I often hear people talk about the ageing demographic in harness racing and it’s true, we have many followers and participants in the Baby Boomer and older range,” Harness Racing Victoria Chief Executive John Anderson acknowledged.

“But we are also blessed with enormous rising talent in Victoria and all around Australasia – the trots has become a young person’s sport over the past few years,” he observed.

Anderson cited the honour roll for this year’s \$1.5 million Breeders Crown Grand Final Day at Melton in August as a case in point, when young guns Greg Sugars, Luke McCarthy and Dexter Dunn shone brightly in the sulky.

“Greg Sugars is just 26 yet drove his 1500th career winner in the 2012/13 season, finished second on the Australian Drivers Premiership and gave Victoria’s Metropolitan Drivers’ Premiership a serious nudge,” he said.

“Twenty-seven-year-old Nathan Jack drove his 1000th winner during the season while 23-year-old Ellen Tormey has only just lost her concession drivers claim but represented Victoria on three separate occasions during the racing year, and won the Inter Dominion Young Drivers Championship,” Anderson recalled.

He added that Josh Duggan, Zac Phillips and Rebecca Bartley were all recognised by Victorian industry bodies for their noteworthy achievements during the season.

“Each month I am able to report in my industry newsletter that a newcomer has driven his or her first race winner.

“It is therefore incumbent on us as administrators to provide an environment where these young people can make a good living out of our great sport for generations to come,” Anderson concluded.

In New South Wales, the 2012/13 season was highlighted by an extraordinary group of young female drivers.

“There has never been a shortage of truly outstanding reinswomen in NSW, going back to Margaret Frost, Tess Gleeson and Lisa Justice, but even those trailblazers would surely be impressed by the current crop,” Harness Racing New South Wales CEO Sam Nati suggested.

“Amanda Turnbull has steadily climbed the Drivers Premiership standings over the past five seasons including consecutive second placings in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

“But this year she not only won her maiden NSW title but did so with an almost unheard of 200 plus winners – only one other (male) driver had previously achieved the feat,” he revealed.

Turnbull, in fact, was the nation’s premier reinswoman for the season, finishing fifth nationally with 203 wins from 808 drives.

Meanwhile, the stunning emergence of Lauren Panella as a major player in the Sydney driving ranks was breathtaking.

“While she has always shown promise and even glimpses of greatness, what she achieved in the second half of the season was extraordinary.

“Her impressive horsemanship was further highlighted by ridden monte wins at Menangle and Melton,” he said.

Nati also made special mention of the 2012 NSW representative for the Australasian Young Drivers Championship in Perth, Kerry Ann Turner, who has made a seamless transition into the state’s training ranks.

“Kerry Ann is a very under-rated driver who achieved fantastic results as a claiming junior with far fewer opportunities than many of her peers.



“She and her partner Robbie Morris, another harness racing young gun, are very much the future face of the sport in NSW,” he predicted.

Further south, Tasmania continues to be an excellent location for young participants to develop their harness racing skills and experience success according to Tasracing’s Code Development Manager (Harness) Kevin Neilson.

“The most obvious supporting statistic is the performance of Tasmanian participants who have won four of the past 11 Australasian Young Drivers Championships,” he said proudly.

“The number of claiming novice drivers, a key indicator for young participants entering the industry, increased from 13 in season 2010/11 to 28 in 2012/13.

"And five of last season's top 10 drivers were aged under 30, headed by Gareth Rattray who won his eighth consecutive Tasmanian State Driving Premiership," Neilson added.

Twenty-eight-year-old Rattray is now rapidly closing in on Jack Stamford (13) and Barrie Rattray (11) who set the benchmark for the most driving premierships in Tasmanian harness racing history.

Seventeen-year-old Dylan Ford out-drove his concession claim in 2012/13 after charging to 40 wins in only 15 months, bettering records set by Alex Ashwood and Gareth Rattray; and brothers Matthew (aged 17) and Braden (19) Howlett won the state's two annual Young Drivers Series.

"In addition to the local talent, former Tasmanians Joshua Duggan (21) and Alex Ashwood (19) enjoyed considerable success in Victoria," Neilson said.

In Queensland, the 2012/13 Chairman's Scholarship was awarded to Bart Cockburn, a beacon among a galaxy of emerging stars.

"In his first full season overseeing his own establishment, he built numbers and moved full steam ahead into Queensland's training ranks, facilitating a fourth placing on the State Premiership behind top established trainers Darrel Graham, Vicki Rasmussen and Grant Dixon," Racing Queensland's Commercial and Racing Development Manager Blair Odgers said.

Cockburn also placed fourth on the State Drivers Premiership with more than 130 winners and won the Albion Park Drivers Invitation Series defeating rivals the ilk of Gavin Lang, Greg Sugars, Gary Hall Jnr and Chris Lewis.



"Twenty-two-year-old Pete McMullen, a third-generation horseman already in his sixth season of driving, finished second in the Drivers Premiership with more than 150 wins.

"He has also established a racing operation with fiancée Chantal Turpin and together they are proving to be a formidable partnership on and off the track."

Odgers added that Turpin herself was snapping at the heels of the state's top five trainers in 2012/13 and despite handing the majority of the stable driving commitments to her partner, still notched 29 successes in her sixth driving season to close in on 300 career wins.

Following in the footsteps of her big brother, 18-year-old Narissa McMullen is an exciting talent.

"In her third racing season, she fell agonisingly close to a maiden century of driving wins and won the six-race BOTRA Young Drivers Championship," he said.

"The 2012/13 racing year saw 23-year-old Kelli Dawson notch her 250th career win. However, she is best recognised for her association with iron pacer Destreos who has won more races at Albion Park than any other horse.



"Together, the partnership has saluted at the home of Queensland harness racing on 32 occasions, including the 2013 Group Three Be Good Johnny Sprint in a scorching 1:52.9 mile rate.

"Dawson also drove San Fran Lady when she became the Sunshine State's fastest race mare, stopping the clock in a scintillating 1:53," Odgers revealed.

New Zealand-born Adam Sanderson had a year to remember, finishing seventh in the state drivers title and third in the concession drivers' title behind the McMullen siblings.

He also drove wonder filly Montana Marie on six occasions during a 12-race winning streak, culminating with victory in the Group Two Nursery Pace Fillies' Final.

And 16-year-old Amy Rees made an auspicious start to her driving career, with two wins and four placings from her first eight appearances after gaining her licence in January 2013.

Six months later she drove a perfectly judged race to upstage a star-studded line-up in the Albion Park Female Drivers Invitation – six of her 12 rivals had collectively won more than 3,900 races.

The premier performer among South Australia's concession ranks was Matthew Smith who stamped his authority in his final year as a claiming junior.

Smith's most successful season in the sulky to date yielded 39 wins (35 in his home state) and victory in the SA Young Drivers Award over Byron Hornhardt (28 wins) and Jayson Finnis (21).

Meanwhile Finnis, who finished the 2012/13 season on 193 career wins, created a small piece of history as the first Mount Gambier local to be selected to represent South Australia in the Australasian Young Drivers Championship.

Michael Smith was a clear-cut winner in the six-race SA Young Drivers Challenge averaging 11 points per drive; Shane Turner was runner-up on 9.33 with Byron Hornhardt third on 8.8.

Smith finished the season with 17 wins, taking his career tally to 74.

In the Graham Silke Plate, a feature race remembering a SA trainer well known for nurturing young driving talent, Shane Turner notched his biggest win aboard one of the state's premier juveniles in Lord Lincoln.

Work commitments limited Jake Webster's opportunities in 2012/13, but the established driving talent still managed 13 wins.

Outside the concession ranks, Ken Rogers continued his great form in just his fourth racing season with 52 wins to take his career total to 180 and Danielle Hill, a former Australasian Young Driving Champion, was SA's Leading Reinswoman.

Hill returned to the sulky in 2012 after a serious race fall and enjoyed a triumphant season with 94 wins and a third placing in the State Drivers Premiership behind David Harding (191 SA wins) and Ryan Hryhorec (157).



On the west coast, 25-year-old sensation Chris Voak joined an elite honour roll when he took out the 2013 Australasian Young Drivers Championship, winning three races during the prestigious annual series.

Voak drove 130 winners of \$1,153,726 in stakes for the 2012/13 season in his home State to finish third on the WA Drivers Premiership behind Gary Hall and Colin Brown.

His career tally now exceeds 350 wins.

Aiden De Campo, who began driving in 2009, enjoyed a breakout season in 2012/13, topping 100 wins for the first time and finishing eighth on the WA Drivers Premiership.

He won the Group One Westbred Classic for two-year-old fillies behind Im Bella Jay and Group Three Harvey Cup with Danieljohn for his father Andrew with whom he works.

Twenty-four-year-old trainer Courtney Burch (Racing and Wagering Western Australia's 2012 Young Achiever) made serious waves when she notched her 50th career win courtesy of Flojo Two in June this year.

The milestone came a tick over two years and 10 months since her first win, with Jackdylan at Central Wheatbelt on 8 August, 2010.

To put Burch's achievement into perspective, legendary WA trainer Fred Kersley was 29 and trained for nine and a half years before notching his 50th win; Trevor Warwick was 29 and took four and a half years while Gary Hall was 35 and trained for 13 years before achieving his half century.

Apprentice electrician Dylan Egerton-Green amassed 44 points to win the 2013 RWWA Rising Stars Series, defeating Shane Butcher and Chris Butt.

The 20-year-old already boasts in excess of 50 wins after just three seasons in the sulky, and prepared 13 winners in little more than 12 months, principally with cast-offs from other stables, after securing his trainers' ticket in July last year.

At the opposite end of the scale, it would be remiss not to acknowledge multiple Group One-winning reinsman Morgan Woodley who at age 24 brought up his 1000th career victory aboard To Transcent at Gloucester Park on 6 August, 2013.

The pacer was trained by Frank Nafranec, who ironically also put the polish on Woodley's second ever winner, Luvmeluvme, in a C-class race at GP on 16 August, 2005.

"One of our industry's greatest assets is the longevity of both our horses and our participants," Harness Racing Australia Chief Executive Andrew Kelly suggested.

"Equally, our ability to recruit, educate and encourage trainers and drivers to become involved at an early age is vital in ensuring harness racing's long-term growth and prosperity."

"The collective dominance of participants under the age of 30 across each of Australia's six harness racing states in the 2012/13 season was nothing short of breath-taking."



"We celebrate and applaud their spectacular achievements, commend their dedication to forging what, in many cases are already history-making careers, and look forward with much anticipation to what lies ahead," he said.



2013 HRA Award Winners

GLOBE DERBY AWARDS – Sires

BETTORS DELIGHT USA

Leading Sire by Stakemoney (for the 2nd time)
356 Starters 252 Winners 729 Wins \$6,498,244

SUNDON USA

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney (for the 11th time)
123 Starters 64 Winners 140 Wins \$1,202,428

ART MAJOR USA

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney (for the 5th time)
214 Starters 131 Winners 361 Wins \$3,325,401

J.D. WATTS AWARDS

Leading Trainer of the Year

Grant Dixon (QLD) 226 Wins

Leading Driver of the Year

Chris Alford (Vic) 295 Wins

LAWN DERBY AWARDS – PACERS

AUSTRALIAN PACER OF THE YEAR

– IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ

Owners: Beth Richardson, Glen Moore, Gary Ralston, Mark Congerton, Joe Barber, Henry McManus and Karen Hall.
Trainer: Gary Hall Snr.
Breeder: William Kennedy
Aust Performances: 16 Starts 11 Wins 4 Placings \$941,360 P 1:53.5ms
NZ Performances: 1 Start 1 Win \$136,250 P 1:59.6ms

AGED HORSE/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR – IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ

Owners: Beth Richardson, Glen Moore, Gary Ralston, Mark Congerton, Joe Barber, Henry McManus and Karen Hall.
Trainer: Gary Hall Snr.
Breeder: William Kennedy
Aust Performances: 16 Starts 11 Wins 4 Placings \$941,360 P 1:53.5ms
NZ Performances: 1 Start 1 Win \$136,250 P 1:59.6ms

AGED PACING MARE OF THE YEAR – BABY BLING NZ

Owners: Harvey Kaplan, Estate of Kaye Kilgour, Sammy Kilgour, Peter O’Shea, Zilla O’Shea, Belinda McCarthy, Adam Fairley.
Trainer: Belinda McCarthy.
Breeder: Jordash Breeding Trust and Kaye Kilgour.
Performances: 14 Starts 6 Wins 3 Placings \$619,050 P1:50.5ms

3YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

– MAJESTIC MACH

Owner: Solid Earth Pty Ltd.
Trainer: Grant Dixon.
Breeder: Solid Earth Pty Ltd
Performances: 15 Starts 14 Wins 1 Placing \$280,272 P 1:54.7ms

3YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR – FRITH

Owner: Dianne Kelly.
Trainer: Bruce Harpley.
Breeder: Dianne Kelly
Performances: 16 Starts 15 Wins 1 Placing \$486,970 P 1:55.2ms

2YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR – BLING IT ON

Owners: Harvey Kaplan, Estate of Kaye Kilgour, Sammy Kilgour, Peter O’Shea, Zilla O’Shea, Tracy Lamb, Allan Fairley.
Trainer: Belinda McCarthy.
Breeder: Harshell Investments Pty Ltd and Kaye Kilgour.
Performances: 14 Starts 9 Wins 5 Placings \$360,923 P1:53.1

2YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR – MINDARIE PRIDDY

Owners: Michael Pridmore, Garry Stewart.
Trainer: Lisa Miles.
Breeder: Staffordshire Park
Performances: 8 Starts 6 Wins 1 Placing \$211,650 P1:55.3ms



2013 HRA Award Winners

VANCLEVE AWARDS – TROTTERS

AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR – **VULCAN NZ**

Owners: Jenny Butt, Donald McKenzie.
Trainer: Tim Butt.
Breeder: Jenny Butt and Donald McKenzie.
Aust Performances:

14 Starts 4 Wins 5 Placings \$345,105 TR1:55.9ms

AGED TROTTING HORSE /GELDING OF THE YEAR – **VULCAN NZ**

Owners: Jenny Butt, Donald McKenzie.
Trainer: Tim Butt.
Breeder: Jenny Butt and Donald McKenzie.
Aust Performances:

14 Starts 4 Wins 5 Placings \$345,105 TR1:55.9ms

AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR – **WAIKARE PATRICIA**

Owners: John McDermott, Graham McDermott, Max Lancaster.
Trainer: Graham McDermott.
Breeder: Est. James Henry McDermott and Shirley McDermott
Performances: 16 Starts 8 Wins 4 Placings \$99,475 TR 1:59.9

3YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR – **BLITZTHEMCALDER**

Owners: Richard and Jane Burchell
Trainer: Ross Payne.
Breeder: Richard and Jane Burchell
Aust Performances:

9 Starts 6 Wins 2 Placings \$113,075 TR1:56.6ms

NZ Performances:
6 Starts 1 Win 2 Placings \$65,592 TR2:00.0ms

3YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR – **HABIBTI NZ**

Owners: Robert Paterson, Birchbrook Breeding Ltd, LA Paterson.
Trainer: David Butt.
Breeder: Gabriel and Julie Maghzal
Performances: 4 Starts 3 Wins 1 Placing \$84,250 TR1:59.8

2YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR – **IM STATELY**

Owners: John Heffernan, David Jack, Mark McKenna, Ben Verrall, Darren Verrall, Anthony Hinchcliffe.
Trainer: David Jack.
Breeders: John Heffernan, David Jack, Mark McKenna, Ben Verrall, Darren Verrall, Anthony Hinchcliffe
Performances: 11 Starts 8 Wins 3 Placings \$182,915 TR2:01.9

2YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR – **CLAUDYS PRINCESS**

Owners: Catchya Racing Group.
Trainer: Graham Lyon.
Breeder: Gus Underwood
Performances: 5 Starts 3 Wins 1 Placing \$51,800 TR2:05.0ms

WINONA AWARD

AUSTRALIAN BROODMARE OF THE YEAR – **ALLDATGLITTERSISGOLD NZ**

Owners: Harshell Investments Pty Ltd and Estate of Kaye Kilgour.
(F2000) by Caprock USA from Glitter (NZ) by Lordship from Sandra Del (NZ) by Armbro Del USA.
Overall Record: Dam of 5 of Racing Age – 3 winners 3 in 2:00.

2012/2013 Record: 2 winners 15 wins 8 placings \$979,073

BABY BLING (P:1:50.5ms) 6 wins 3 placings \$619,050

- 2013 Miracle Mile \$750,000 – G1 (MP Rue) Tabcorp Park, Menangle, NSW.
- 2012 WA Mares Classic \$100,000 – G1 (LA McCarthy) Gloucester Park, WA.
- 2013 Teeny Teeny Stakes \$40,000 – G3 (AJ McCarthy) Tabcorp Park, Menangle, NSW.
- 2013 Goulburn Cup \$30,000 – G3 (JP McCarthy) Goulburn, NSW

BLING IT ON (P:1:53.1ms) 9 wins 5 placings \$360,023

- 2013 2YO Seymour Nursery Pace-C&G \$100,000 – G1 (LA McCarthy) Albion Park, Qld.
- 2013 2YO Australasian Breeders Crown-C&G \$302,000 – G1 (JP McCarthy) Tabcorp Park, Melton, Vic.
- 2013 NSW Sapling Stakes \$40,000 – G3 (LA McCarthy) Tabcorp Park, Menangle, NSW.



FROM THE TRACK

2012/2013 TRAINER OF THE YEAR

GRANT DIXON



Grant Dixon has firmly established himself as Australia's leading trainer in winning the 2012/2013 J.D. Watts Award. Grant, in winning this year's award, has followed on from his win in this award last season. This season Grant trained 226 winners to secure the title. As a true indication of his horsemanship he also drove 158 winners in the season. Upon receiving the award last year Grant was determined to show the industry that he would lead from the front and there is little disputing that this is what he has done.

Having taken over the role as head trainer at the Tamborine property at the end of the 2011 season, Grant has continued to maintain the frenetic pace established by his father Bill. Bill Dixon is well known to all in the harness racing industry having been the Australian leading trainer for the four years prior to Grant's first success.

Certainly the star of the Dixon stable was the recently named three-year-old Pacing Gelding of the year, Majestic Mach, who raced 15 times for 14 wins and who has established himself as a star of the future.

Undoubtedly the biggest highlight though came through the birth of Grant's son with partner Trista Baz. Thomas William Dixon was welcomed into the world in late 2012 and may have a racing future already mapped out.

With strong drive and commitment, there is little doubt that the surname Dixon will remain in the top echelons of training for many more seasons to come.

WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS REPRESENTATIVE NEIL DAY

New South Welshman Neil Day headed off for the World Driving Championships (WDC) looking forward to the experience and with a simple wish to draw a few decent horses along the way. The WDC, held in France, was certainly a career highlight for Neil. Neil was hopeful that his basic French would assist him. "I've been brushing up on the French language and I think I know enough to get myself out of trouble, I can say 'hello, thank you and do you speak English' so hopefully they will understand me," Neil said prior to departure.



The WDC, held over 20 races and five venues across France, pitted Neil against representatives from 11 other countries. Although not getting his wish in drawing good horses, Neil was a worthy representative for Australia.

There was little doubt that hometown knowledge played some part in the result with Frenchman Pierre Vercruyse being the overall winner of the series.

Australia will get a chance to extract revenge in the 2015 series which is to be conducted here. Our driving representative will be announced closer to the series commencement date.

2012/2013 LEADING DRIVER OF THE YEAR CHRIS ALFORD

The name Chris Alford is the harness racing equivalent of royalty. In what can only be described as another outstanding season Chris is once again the leading driver in Australia. Although he did not surpass the 300 wins of last season, his 295 was enough to again win the J.D. Watts award as leading driver.

This is the seventh time that Chris has won the award, which in itself is an amazing feat.

Rapidly closing in on 5,000 lifetime wins there is little doubt that the 45-year-old reinsman has many more leading seasons to come although there are a number of other drivers who would like to take the title from him. The continued dominance is even more impressive given that Chris has a small team of his own horses that he trains.

Based in Bolinda with his wife Alison and children Katie and Sam, Chris, better known to harness racing followers as "puppet" because of his deft handwork, has been associated with some of the best horses in Australasia.



The list of champion horses that Chris has been associated with reads like a who's who of horse royalty with names like Tailamade Lombo, Paris Affair, Maffioso, Broadways Best, and possibly the most special of all Mont Denver Gold, who was trained by his father Barry.

Chris represented Australia in the 1997 World Driver's Championship in Germany where he drove three winners and was able to showcase his talents on the biggest stage.

Back on the local stage Chris uses his harness industry profile to raise awareness for the condition Neurofibromatosis (NF), which his daughter Katie suffers from and has colours registered to highlight the foundation. He drives in these in May each year to promote awareness of the condition. There is little doubt that in the upcoming seasons we will see "puppet" add to his tally of winners and Group One success and be associated with many more fantastic horses as both a driver and trainer.

AUSTRALASIAN YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR CHRIS VOAK

The Australasian Young Drivers Championship (AYDC) brings together 10 of the best young drivers from Australia and New Zealand each year. There is one from each Australian state, one each from the South and North Islands of New Zealand, The New Zealand Junior Champion as well as the defending champion.



This year it was hosted by New South Wales with the final round of racing being conducted on Inter Dominion Grand Final day meaning that the drivers got to share the limelight on the biggest day of the Australasian harness racing calendar.

This year's winner, Western Australian Chris Voak, amassed 80 points to edge out Josh Dickie (New Zealand) who finished with 77 points and defending champion, Ellen Tormey from Victoria. Chris won three heats of the AYDC at Penrith, Menangle and Goulburn. For the trivia buffs, each of his winners was a son of gun sire Art Major. Chris will be too old to defend his title in 2014.

The win in the AYDC came during a season where Chris drove 133 winners, plus 270 placings, from just over 1,000 drives. All up the prize money won by his drives was in excess of \$1 million, which is a measure of his rise to prominence in the harness racing world. An early indication of his talent was on display in the 2011 season when he won both the NSW and WA Rising stars title and in doing so became the first driver to win both series.

Chris finished third in the WA driving premiership in the 2012/13 season behind Gary Hall Jnr and Colin Brown and ahead of the likes of Chris Lewis and Morgan Woodley.

There is little doubt that he was a worthy winner of this title.

NATIONAL STATS

PRIZEMONEY

2012/2013 Top 10 Starters – by Prizemoney

Name	Age	Sex	Starts	Wins	Season Best Mile Rate	Aust Season Prizemoney	*Career Prizemoney
IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	8	GELDING	16	11	1:53.5MS	\$941,360	\$4,370,716
BABY BLING NZ	5	MARE	14	6	1:50.5MS	\$619,050	\$749,478
MAH SISH NZ	6	GELDING	11	4	1:56.0MS	\$593,622	\$745,749
FRITH	3	FILLY	16	15	1:55.2MS	\$486,970	\$619,060
CARIBBEAN BLASTER	5	COLT	14	5	1:53.7MS	\$448,317	\$818,602
BLING IT ON	2	COLT	14	9	1:53.1MS	\$360,023	\$360,023
WASHAKIE NZ	9	GELDING	17	7	1:51.7MS	\$351,400	\$1,744,523
GAIUS CAESAR NZ	6	GELDING	26	10	1:51.6MS	\$351,270	\$396,531
OUR SIXPENCE NZ	6	MARE	22	10	1:51.3MS	\$348,500	\$613,977
VULCAN NZ	6	GELDING	14	4	TR1:55.9MS	\$345,105	\$826,424

* Career Prizemoney as at 31 August 2013 – includes Aust and Overseas performances

2012/2013 Top 10 Sires – by Prizemoney

				Aust	2YO	2YO	2YO	2YO	3YO	3YO	3YO	3YO
Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
BETTORS DELIGHT USA	356	252	729	\$6,498,244	34	18	40	\$386,126	97	69	181	\$1,739,793
ART MAJOR USA	435	294	792	\$6,088,715	83	43	93	\$1,581,251	131	88	268	\$1,744,150
MACH THREE CA	248	176	515	\$5,142,499	36	18	30	\$292,797	70	56	169	\$1,328,501
CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ	267	172	474	\$4,061,081	10	6	15	\$199,206	40	30	70	\$652,026
COURAGE UNDER FIRE NZ	270	146	390	\$3,071,915	54	16	40	\$405,120	39	20	66	\$334,473
BLISSFULL HALL USA	281	161	449	\$2,765,947	13	5	6	\$49,056	69	36	97	\$483,948
WESTERN TERROR USA	120	89	287	\$2,722,862	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
WASHINGTON VC USA	82	52	189	\$2,684,217	2	2	3	\$16,965	10	6	18	\$102,484
LIVE OR DIE USA	266	152	392	\$2,611,450	21	10	17	\$208,983	39	23	42	\$219,399
GRINFROMEAR TO EAR USA	293	137	349	\$2,453,378	70	16	32	\$430,020	74	32	83	\$438,295

2012/2013 Top 10 Broodmare Sires – by Prizemoney

				Aust	2YO	2YO	2YO	2YO	3YO	3YO	3YO	3YO
Broodmare Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
FAKE LEFT USA	388	222	643	\$5,103,537	44	20	48	\$875,615	100	50	152	\$1,388,223
HOLMES HANOVER USA	462	278	695	\$4,690,513	32	6	11	\$88,104	89	54	136	\$979,977
SOKYS ATOM USA	303	183	454	\$4,117,074	19	10	18	\$102,104	51	27	75	\$474,669
SAFELY KEPT USA	346	199	510	\$3,969,859	56	19	33	\$356,849	73	41	99	\$669,266
IN THE POCKET USA	240	169	474	\$3,700,198	32	18	42	\$321,047	39	26	51	\$456,329
FALCON SEELSTER USA	213	124	345	\$3,389,769	18	7	15	\$181,047	25	18	54	\$381,272
NEW YORK MOTORING USA	155	88	258	\$2,781,419	6	2	10	\$154,274	15	8	20	\$297,511
ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA	290	154	389	\$2,571,984	49	14	31	\$433,678	67	32	106	\$596,158
ALBERT ALBERT USA	205	114	274	\$2,319,860	32	14	18	\$127,795	48	24	67	\$923,865
CLASSIC GARRY	296	139	361	\$2,278,181	31	5	14	\$259,561	63	26	73	\$356,197

2012/2013 Top 10 Drivers – by Wins

Driver	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Country Wins	Metro Stakes	Metro Wins	Stakes	Country Stakes	State
CHRIS ALFORD	1,551	295	221	161	162	257	\$998,395	38	\$2,229,083	\$2,229,083	VIC
GREG SUGARS	1,601	257	194	165	199	224	\$1,053,719	33	\$2,164,531	\$2,164,531	SA
GARY HALL (JNR)	884	241	137	95	67	140	\$2,685,535	101	\$3,468,789	\$3,468,789	WA
GAVIN LANG	1,140	224	183	141	112	185	\$1,069,498	39	\$2,041,267	\$2,041,267	VIC
AMANDA TURNBULL	808	203	132	96	87	195	\$236,808	8	\$1,122,417	\$1,122,417	NSW
DAVID HARDING	705	192	109	76	80	121	\$341,483	71	\$598,369	\$598,369	SA
DARYL DOUGLAS	1,606	186	201	201	167	165	\$567,680	21	\$1,473,628	\$1,473,628	VIC
LAUREN PANELLA	670	179	86	89	75	141	\$868,945	38	\$1,516,571	\$1,516,571	NSW
RYAN HRYHOREC	654	169	100	84	81	119	\$298,552	50	\$571,053	\$571,053	SA
NATHAN JACK	1,123	166	157	138	133	150	\$425,723	16	\$1,152,459	\$1,152,459	VIC
MATTHEW NEILSON	1,184	166	161	138	139	147	\$374,010	19	\$1,052,526	\$1,052,526	QLD

2012/2013 Top 10 Trainers – by Wins

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Country Wins	Metro Stakes	Metro Wins	Stakes	Country Stakes	State
GRANT DIXON	1,537	226	218	202	171	180	\$1,163,399	46	\$2,113,946	\$950,548	QLD
STEVE TURNBULL	1,165	199	188	147	136	190	\$257,562	9	\$1,236,069	\$978,507	NSW
GARY HALL (SNR)	675	193	91	65	63	94	\$2,677,860	99	\$3,180,678	\$502,818	WA
BELINDA MCCARTHY	579	167	93	59	56	86	\$2,943,654	81	\$3,539,528	\$595,874	NSW
SHAYNE CRAMP	519	158	85	60	52	152	\$87,042	6	\$725,616	\$638,575	VIC
GREG AND SKYE BOND	735	153	114	83	69	118	\$823,215	35	\$1,444,758	\$621,543	WA
VICKI RASMUSSEN	927	149	128	103	122	113	\$452,853	36	\$968,344	\$515,490	QLD
DARREL GRAHAM	752	134	81	77	58	108	\$398,005	26	\$797,814	\$399,809	QLD
SHANE TRITTON	629	129	81	69	64	115	\$397,386	14	\$943,229	\$545,843	NSW
GLENN DOUGLAS	1,077	123	136	138	116	104	\$406,892	19	\$983,707	\$576,815	VIC

All Time: 2:00 and 1:55 Horses and the Number 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
2012-2013	1,635	1,084	4,657	2,478	6,292	3,038	375	227	163	126	538	333
2011-2012	1,437	978	3,959	2,158	5,396	2,694	243	164	93	75	336	144
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



2012/2013 Top 20 Fastest – Pacers

Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
EXCEL STRIDE	5YO	COLT	1:50.3MS	MILE	23/03/2013	J P MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BABY BLING NZ	5YO	MARE	1:50.5MS	MILE	28/04/2013	M P RUE	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CHRISTEN ME NZ	4YO	GELDING	1:50.5MS	MILE	03/03/2013	D J DUNN	C T DALGETY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MACH ALERT NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:50.9MS	MILE	13/04/2013	L A MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
PURE POWER NZ	6YO	GELDING	1:51.0MS	MILE	09/02/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MACH ALERT NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:51.1MS	MILE	17/11/2012	L A MCCARTHY	J P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MACH BEAUTY	4YO	GELDING	1:51.2MS	MILE	28/04/2013	G K CHAPPLE	S P TRITTON	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
EXCEL STRIDE	5YO	COLT	1:51.3MS	MILE	08/06/2013	L A MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR SIXPENCE NZ	6YO	MARE	1:51.3MS	MILE	28/04/2013	L A MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MY TEMUDJIN NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:51.5MS	MILE	16/02/2013	A M BUTT	T G BUTT	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CHRISTEN ME NZ	4YO	GELDING	1:51.6MS	MILE	16/02/2013	D J DUNN	C T DALGETY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GAIUS CAESAR NZ	6YO	GELDING	1:51.6MS	MILE	30/06/2013	L R PANELLA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GAIUS CAESAR NZ	6YO	GELDING	1:51.7MS	MILE	20/04/2013	L R PANELLA	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MY TEMUDJIN NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:51.7MS	MILE	23/03/2013	L R PANELLA	T G BUTT	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
WALTZING WITH CULLEN NZ	4YO	COLT	1:51.7MS	MILE	15/06/2013	L A MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
WASHAKIE NZ	9YO	GELDING	1:51.7MS	MILE	26/10/2012	J P MCCARTHY	J P MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BAINFIELD WASHINGTON NZ	5YO	MARE	1:51.8MS	MILE	06/10/2012	G J FITZPATRICK	P R J FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BITOBLISS	6YO	COLT	1:51.8MS	1,720M	24/11/2012	S C STEWART	S C STEWART	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
CHARDANAE NZ	7YO	MARE	1:51.8MS	MILE	15/12/2012	L R PANELLA	K J PIZZUTO	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SUAVE STUEY LOMBO	5YO	GELDING	1:51.8MS	1,660M	13/07/2013	L R PANELLA	S P TRITTON	ALBION PARK (QLD)

2012/2013 Fastest Performers – by Age/Sex – Pacers

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
Overall							
EXCEL STRIDE	COLT	1:50.3MS	MILE	23/03/2013	J P MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BABY BLING NZ	MARE	1:50.5MS	MILE	28/04/2013	M P RUE	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CHRISTEN ME NZ	GELDING	1:50.5MS	MILE	03/03/2013	D J DUNN	C T DALGETY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
4YO+							
EXCEL STRIDE	COLT	1:50.3MS	MILE	23/03/2013	J P MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BABY BLING NZ	MARE	1:50.5MS	MILE	28/04/2013	M P RUE	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CHRISTEN ME NZ	GELDING	1:50.5MS	MILE	03/03/2013	D J DUNN	C T DALGETY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
3YO							
SIR ERIC NZ	COLT	1:52.5MS	MILE	15/03/2013	D J BINSKIN	D J BINSKIN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MUSICAL DELIGHT	MARE	1:53.1MS	MILE	09/02/2013	N R JACK	G J QUINLAN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
LETTUCEFIB	GELDING	1:53.8MS	MILE	12/03/2013	K A TURNER	K A TURNER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
2YO							
BLING IT ON	COLT	1:53.1MS	MILE	20/07/2013	J P MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CHARMING ALLIE	FILLY	1:55.2MS	1,660M	20/07/2013	M P NEILSON	G W DIXON	ALBION PARK (QLD)
LETTUCEROCKTHEM	GELDING	1:52.1MS	MILE	28/04/2013	M P RUE	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)

2012/2013 Leading Stakeswinners – by Age/Sex – Pacers

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
Overall					
COLT	CARIBBEAN BLASTER	14	5	\$448,317	1:53.7MS
MARE	BABY BLING NZ	14	6	\$619,050	1:50.5MS
GELDING	IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	16	11	\$941,360	1:53.5MS
4YO+					
COLT	CARIBBEAN BLASTER	14	5	\$448,317	1:53.7MS
MARE	BABY BLING NZ	14	6	\$619,050	1:50.5MS
GELDING	IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	16	11	\$941,360	1:53.5MS
3YO					
COLT	LENNYTHESHARK	12	6	\$178,028	1:55.9MS
FILLY	FRITH	16	15	\$486,970	1:55.2MS
GELDING	MAJESTIC MACH	15	14	\$280,272	1:54.7MS
2YO					
COLT	BLING IT ON	14	9	\$360,023	1:53.1MS
FILLY	MINDARIE PRIDDY	8	6	\$211,650	1:55.3MS
GELDING	LETTUCEROCKTHEM	14	9	\$329,380	1:52.1MS

2012/2013 Top 20 Fastest – Trotters

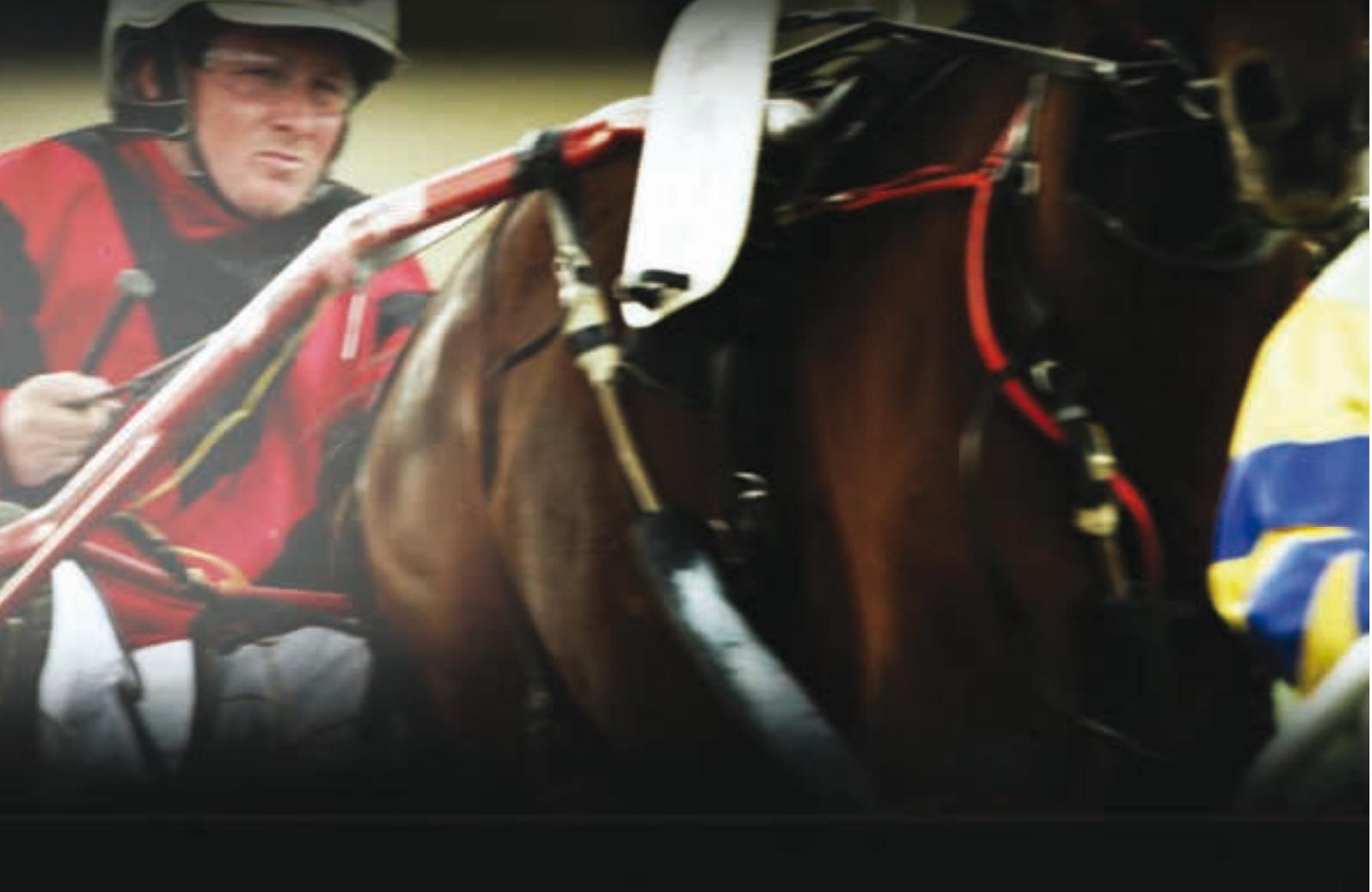
Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:54.9MS	MILE	09/02/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CYCLONE JAKE NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:55.6MS	MILE	15/03/2013	L R PANELLA	K M CROUCH	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
VULCAN NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:55.9MS	1,720M	08/03/2013	G R SUGARS	T G BUTT	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:56.3MS	MILE	03/03/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SPARKS IGNITE	5YO	MARE	TR1:56.5TT	MILE	24/02/2013	L MILES	L MILES	BENDIGO (VIC)
VULCAN NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:56.5MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	A M BUTT	T G BUTT	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
BLITZTHEMCALDER	3YO	COLT	TR1:56.6MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	C A ALFORD	R A PAYNE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
IM READY SET NZ	8YO	MARE	TR1:56.6MS	MILE	11/05/2013	G J FITZPATRICK	B P FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
NEVILLE VAUGHAN NZ	7YO	GELDING	TR1:56.6MS	MILE	05/04/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ALEPO MIDAS	5YO	MARE	TR1:56.8MS	1,720M	22/02/2013	K M GATH	M K EASTMAN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
KING OF STRATHFIELD NZ	7YO	GELDING	TR1:56.8MS	MILE	22/12/2012	L A MCCARTHY	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR SHOE IN NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:57.0MS	MILE	10/11/2012	M C MUSCAT	M C MUSCAT	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
VULCAN NZ	6YO	GELDING	TR1:57.0MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	A M BUTT	T G BUTT	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
NEVILLE VAUGHAN NZ	7YO	GELDING	TR1:57.1MS	2,300M	19/02/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
NEVILLE VAUGHAN NZ	7YO	GELDING	TR1:57.2MS	MILE	26/10/2012	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
STIG NZ	10YO	GELDING	TR1:57.2MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	D J BUTT	P C NAIRN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SHEER ILLUSION	4YO	MARE	TR1:57.3MS	MILE	19/02/2013	D R HANCOCK	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SUPPER WALTZ WILSON NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:57.3MS	1,660M	01/12/2012	B L COCKBURN	B L COCKBURN	ALBION PARK (QLD)
THE PINK DIAMOND NZ	7YO	MARE	TR1:57.3MS	MILE	27/11/2012	M C MUSCAT	D J THORN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ALEPO MIDAS	5YO	MARE	TR1:57.4MS	MILE	09/03/2013	K M GATH	M K EASTMAN	BENDIGO (VIC)
MY ESCAPEE NZ	4YO	MARE	TR1:57.4MS	1,650M	12/01/2013	M PURDON	M PURDON	BENDIGO (VIC)
REAL DEAL YANKEE NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:57.4MS	MILE	01/09/2012	D J BINSKIN	D R HANCOCK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)

2012/2013 Fastest Performers – by Age/Sex – Trotters

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
Overall							
BLITZTHEMCALDER	COLT	TR1:56.6MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	C A ALFORD	R A PAYNE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SPARKS IGNITE	MARE	TR1:56.5TT	MILE	24/02/2013	L MILES	L MILES	BENDIGO (VIC)
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	GELDING	TR1:54.9MS	MILE	09/02/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
4YO+							
AMORE STRIDE NZ	COLT	TR1:59.4MS	MILE	19/03/2013	L A MCCARTHY	B J MCCARTHY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SPARKS IGNITE	MARE	TR1:56.5TT	MILE	24/02/2013	L MILES	L MILES	BENDIGO (VIC)
KEYSTONE DEL NZ	GELDING	TR1:54.9MS	MILE	09/02/2013	B P FITZPATRICK	N C MOLANDER	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
3YO							
BLITZTHEMCALDER	COLT	TR1:56.6MS	1,720M	23/03/2013	C A ALFORD	R A PAYNE	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
FORESTSPIDER	FILLY	TR1:58.0MS	1,690M	12/07/2013	G A FOREST	G N FOREST	MARYBOROUGH (VIC)
STEAL A SIXPENCE	GELDING	TR1:58.1MS	1,720M	31/05/2013	D K DOUGLAS	G A LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
2YO							
IM STATELY	COLT	TR2:01.9MS	2240M	05.07.13	D JACK	D JACK	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
MY VALERIE NZ	FILLY	TR2:04.8MS	1609M	21.05.13	B P FITZPATRICK	B P FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MAJESTIC ESS JAY	GELDING	TR2:01.1MS	1690M	28.08.13	C A ALFORD	C W LANG	MARYBOROUGH (VIC)

2012/2013 Leading Stakeswinners – by Age/Sex – Trotters

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
Overall					
COLT	IM STATELY	11	8	\$182,915	TR2:01.9MS
MARE	WAIKARE PATRICIA	16	8	\$99,475	TR1:59.9MS
GELDING	VULCAN NZ	14	4	\$345,105	TR1:55.9MS
4YO+					
COLT	ELEGANT IMAGE	12	8	\$99,125	TR2:00.7MS
MARE	WAIKARE PATRICIA	16	8	\$99,475	TR1:59.9MS
GELDING	VULCAN NZ	14	4	\$345,105	TR1:55.9MS
3YO					
COLT	BLITZTHEMCALDER	9	6	\$113,075	TR1:56.6MS
FILLY	SPIDERGIRL	14	8	\$97,400	TR1:59.7MS
GELDING	OUR DREAMLOVER NZ	13	7	\$49,625	TR1:59.9MS
2YO					
COLT	IM STATELY	11	8	\$182,915	TR2:01.9MS
FILLY	CLAUDYS PRINCESS	5	3	\$51,800	TR2:05.0MS
GELDING	MIRACLE	9	4	\$33,425	TR2:01.2MS



GRAND CIRCUIT AND TROTTING MASTERS



Im Themightyquinn is a modern-day marvel. Boasting a one-in-two overall winning strike rate, the champion Perth gelding left no doubt as to who was the most dominant pacer on the Grand Circuit for the 2012/13 season.

Dogged by constant scepticism throughout his decorated career since switching to the leading stables of Gary Hall from New Zealand as an early four-year-old, Im Themightyquinn answered every challenge possible during another hugely successful and busy schedule.

The illustration of his champion qualities were clear and concise during the 2013 Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Final at Tabcorp Park Menangle after sweeping down the centre of the expansive raceway when nearer last than first with a lap remaining.

It was a performance of a champion.

Not only did the winning effort prove conclusively he has clearly taken the mantle from recently retired Queensland champion Blacks A Fake, but he is capable of going anywhere to prove it.

After he swept his home state series some 12 months earlier, detractors were still prepared to tip against the super sandgroper but on that clear and sunny afternoon in March, Im Themightyquinn produced one of the greatest Inter Dominion victories of all time when defeating Mah Sish and Excel Stride.

And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, he backed up some five nights later in another country and thrashed his rivals again when successful in the Auckland Cup at Alexandra Park.

Within the space of a week, Im Themightyquinn thrust himself amongst the greats of all time.

Those two victories will go down as two of his best given the conditions he faced and overcame, both vastly different but both clearly leaving an indelible imprint on the minds of those who witnessed the warrior at work.

During the 2012/13 season, Im Themightyquinn raced on 17 occasions and recorded 12 victories while being placed on another four occasions.

The list of highlights included his victories in the Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Final in Sydney, the Auckland Cup and the WA Cup at his home track.

His other Gloucester Park victories included the Mount Eden Sprint, Parliamentarians Cup and even the Winter Cup, which were all equally spectacular.

Im Themightyquinn also managed to run placings in the Victoria, Fremantle and Lord Mayors Cups throughout the year.

The West Australian champion was a runaway winner of the 2012/13 Grand Circuit collecting 340 points while his nearest rival Mah Sish managed to gain 244 points.

As per normal, the Grand Circuit officially starts in Brisbane with the \$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship at Albion Park in October and Team

McCarthy dominated with Washakie and Terrorway.

Washakie scored easily from Terrorway while Captain Joy filled third in a time of 1:57.5 for the 2680m event.

The \$NZ600,000 New Zealand Cup at Addington was the next leg of the Grand Circuit and champion pacer Terror To Love provided star reinsman Ricky May with his sixth victory in the country's biggest event.

Terror To Love became a dual New Zealand Cup winner with his brilliant victory where he defeated Highview Tommy and Sushi Sushi in a time of 1:59.9 for the two-mile stand-start feature.



The horse, trained by Graham and Paul Court, became the 16th multiple New Zealand Cup winner.

With the Grand Circuit action returning to Australian shores for the \$400,000 Victoria Cup at Tabcorp Park Melton, the race attracted a star-studded field headed up by champion Perth pacer Im Themightyquinn.

With a frantic speed set, rising star Caribbean Blaster charged down the outside to score his biggest victory for husband and wife combination of Andy and Kate Gath defeating Mah Sish and Im Themightyquinn in a stunning time of 1:53.7 for the 2240m event.

The action then headed west and Im Themightyquinn was out to claim his third straight \$400,000 WA Cup at Gloucester Park in front of his home crowd.

The pocket rocket didn't disappoint as he produced his trademark sprint over the concluding stages to beat Crombie and Dasher VC in a time of 1:56.6 for the 2536m.

Lethal Kiwi combination of Tim and Anthony Butt added another \$400,000 Hunter Cup trophy to their



expanding collection when Mah Sish proved too strong for a brave Jaccka Clive with Caribbean Blaster a close-up third in the 3280m stand-start feature at Tabcorp Park Melton.

It was a track record performance of 1:59.2 for the Mach Three gelding.

The 2013 Inter Dominion Pacing Series took on a completely new look – a major overhaul was introduced with heats conducted in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Auckland with a ranking system introduced.



A final field of 14 runners on a 1400m track over the distance of 3009m with a two-tier mobile start configuration was another dimension to the series.

The \$750,000 Grand Final was staged at Tabcorp Park Menangle and will remain at that same venue from 2013 to 2015 inclusive after HRNSW was awarded the series from the IDEC after a successful tender process.

In front of a strong crowd, Im Themightyquinn raced into the record books with a brilliant and decisive victory defeating Mah Sish and Excel Stride in a time of 1:58.1.

Im Themightyquinn joins Our Sir Vancelot as triple Inter Dominion champion and is one shy of Blacks A Faké's record haul of four titles.

The champion pacer backed up some five days later in another country and again dominated his rivals when successful in the \$NZ250,000 Auckland Cup at Alexandra Park defeating Terror To Love and Bettor Cover Lover in the 2700m feature.

The father-son combination of Gary Hall Snr and Jnr were left in awe of their champion pacer as he thrashed his rivals in a time of 1:59.6.

With renovation and construction underway at Tabcorp Park Menangle, the \$750,000 Miracle Mile was placed into a new time slot.

Held in late April, the Miracle Mile was the last official leg of the 2012/13 Grand Circuit season.

With many of the Grand Circuit warriors enjoying some well-earned rest after a hectic season of hard racing and constant travel, Australia's speed test took on a new look.

Baby Bling, the sole mare invited to contest the 1609m feature stormed to victory for Mat Rue beating Terror To Love and Pure Power in a time of 1:50.5.

The victory of Baby Bling ranks her alongside Robin Dundee and Norms Daughter as the only mares to capture the famous event.

Major changes weren't just restricted to the pacing side during the season as the trotters also faced a new direction.

The **Trotting Masters** is the new-look series for the trotters which takes in six feature events staged across both sides of the Tasman. The Inter Dominion is gone but the Great Southern Star, Glenferrie Farm Challenge plus the ANZAC Cup are all new events.

The Glenferrie Farm Challenge is an event staged in Sydney at Tabcorp Park Menangle with two teams of five from Australia and New Zealand selected by administrators and staged on the big spacious track over the distance of one mile.

The Great Southern Star is the new shining light in Victoria with the concept modelled on the famed Elitloppet in Sweden with heats staged early in the meeting before the rich final held later in the program.

Harness Racing Victoria has worked closely with its European contacts as it aims to have representation for

the feature each and every year.

In the inaugural running of the Great Southern Star, the Northern Hemisphere was represented by Ridgehead Cahore for Norwegian trainer Terje Melnas and handled by his Swedish driver Torbjörn Jansson.

The 2012/13 Trotting Masters champion was Kiwi star Vulcan who claimed Grand Prix and the Great Southern Star at Tabcorp Park Melton.

With the Dominion Handicap in Christchurch kicking off the Trotting Masters series, it was taken out by superstar trotter I Can Doosit while the Glenferrie Farm Challenge was taken out by former Kiwi Keystone Del before Vulcan stole the show in Victoria.

The action returned to New Zealand for the two final legs of the Trotting Masters series, the National Trot and the Rowe Cup, both events staged at Alexandra Park in Auckland.

Emerging star Stent captured the National Trot before Stig, a modern-day marvel, claimed the Rowe Cup in superb style.

The new-look Trotting Masters series paved the way for exciting and thrilling racing throughout the season on both sides of the Tasman.





STANDBRED UNHARNESSSED

The recognition of the Standardbred as a suitable and reliable breed for many applications outside of racing has really gathered momentum in the past 12 months. Often seen as a horse breed only suitable for racing, this unfairly maligned breed is now showing its true class.

Standardbreds are renowned for their pleasant nature and temperament. They generally float well and are easy to care for. Those that have been in a racing stable are used to crowds, noise, travel, farriers and vets. They are extremely intelligent and very loyal.

Harness Racing Australia and the state controlling Bodies have been working hard with the State Standardbred Pleasure Riding Associations to assist them in promoting the breed and therefore creating more demand for off-the-track horses. The State Associations are all made up of dedicated volunteers and horse enthusiasts who in many instances have had long associations with the breed, some through racing or family ownership whilst others are just devotees who have fallen in love with the attributes of the breed.

The members of these associations have certainly recognised the versatility of the breed so it has been a vital step to empower these groups to further promote it. This has been achieved in a number of ways including utilising the power of social media through Facebook and YouTube, as well as creating a dedicated web page for Standardbred enthusiasts, sponsoring Standardbred show rings at agricultural shows, promoting the breed by having horses in the breed villages at Equitana, having Standardbreds lead out fields on race nights and in having static displays at race meetings. All of these activities have led to more and more enquiries about the breed, which ultimately leads to more re-homing opportunities. In excess of 1,000 off the track Standardbreds have found new homes as a result of this increased demand.

Other strategic partnerships struck during the year have included working with Equestrian Australia, which has committed to promote the Standardbred as an ideal first pony club horse or return to the saddle horse as well as with Riding for the Disabled where we are placing retrained Standardbreds into their riding

programs. These partnerships are going from strength to strength. Another placement that occurred this year was the acceptance of a Standardbred into the New South Wales mounted police force. Kalimbah Shadow is flying the flag for Standardbreds and has already seen many days of active duties without batting an eyelid. This is another area of re-homing that HRA will continue to actively pursue.

The real flagship story of the year though is the success of Kathleen Mullan and her Standardbred, MF Hollywood, aka "James". Named Hollywood Dan (after his trainer and breeder Danny Mullan and because of his exceptional looks as a foal) a racing career was never going to be his forte. In fact in four starts the closest he finished to the front was eighth. After turning him out for a spell in the hope that he might develop some speed Danny's daughter, Kathleen, decided to work with *James* to see if he might become a show horse. He took to this new activity like a duck to water and has been a star in the show ring ever since. This season his Agricultural show titles include Sunbury, Lancefield, Maryborough, Kingston, Berwick, Bellarine and Bunyip, as well as also being a Top Ten Saddle horse at the Summer Royal.

In winning the show titles Kathleen was then issued with an invitation to compete in the Garryowen.

The significance of the invitation to compete is evidenced that in 79 years of competition there has never been a Standardbred in the event. HRA has been pleased to assist Kathleen in her endeavours by providing sponsorship in the form of paying for her traditional riding outfit and actively promoting her successes. Kathleen has performed a number of clinics in her role as a breed ambassador. This is a role also performed with enthusiasm and pride as Kathleen strives to educate others on the attributes of the Standardbred.

Garryowen day, 25 September 2013, saw Kathleen step into the arena as a very proud young woman, riding an exceptional Standardbred, with an enormous amount of very vocal support. Although not finishing in the placings, Kathleen and *James* certainly flew the flag as an able representative for all Standardbreds.

In Kathleen's words "today was not about me, it was about *James* being able to show the world that Standardbreds can perform at the elite level, and you know what, he nailed that performance today!".





STATE REPORTS



**KEN LATTA
CHAIRMAN
HARNESS
RACING
VICTORIA**

RACING CALENDAR

During the year Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) conducted 453 race meetings at 26 tracks. This was down 44 meetings, down from 497 conducted in the previous year. The cost saving associated with conducting less meetings did not impact on revenue as additional races were scheduled in the Friday night and Saturday night timeslots.

FEATURE RACES

Once again, HRV conducted several quality events with the inaugural Great Southern Star a highlight.

- The Pryde's Easifeed Great Southern Star (GSS) was held in March 2013 for the first time, in conjunction with the Breed For Speed trotting series. It was an exceptional night, with the heats and Final – combined worth \$350,000 – being run on the same night. In a true staying test, New Zealander Vulcan won his heat and the Final, a credit to perennial Kiwi raiders trainer Tim Butt and driver Anthony Butt. The Board has announced the GSS will increase to \$400,000 in March 2014
- The 2013 Breeders Crown was sponsored again by American Stud Blue Chip Farms, which was a great endorsement for Australian breeding and racing. Once again, this was a fantastic race day with nine Group One races and stakemoney of \$1.5 million. The series distributed \$2.35m overall. On Super Sunday, Australian-trained horses reaped \$1.14 million in stakes, shading the Kiwis who took home \$360,000. Most successful trainer was Belinda McCarthy (2). Most successful driver was Greg Sugars (2) and Gavin Lang took his tally to 10 winning drives since the Breeders Crown commenced. Most successful stallion was American Ideal (2)
- The \$400,000 AG Hunter Cup, sponsored by Del Re National Food Group, was again one of the best attended events for the year. For the fifth time the Cup was won by the trainer/driver Butt Brothers, Tim and Anthony with Mah Sish from New Zealand
- The \$400,000 SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup was won in sensational fashion by Breeders Crown champion Caribbean Blaster for trainer Andy Gath, with wife Kate in the sulky
- The \$200,000 VHRSC Victoria Derby was won by

New Zealand three-year-old Ohoka Punter for trainer/driver Tony Herlihy

- On the same night, Mister Zion became the first horse to win a Group One race as a pacer and a trotter when he won the Australasian Trotting Championship for trainer/driver Geoff Webster
- For the first time, the Group One Finals for the Empire Stallions Vicbred Super Series were held over two nights in early July 2013. The new format was well received by the industry.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

The Victorian Premierships for 2012/13 were won by:

- Metropolitan Driver – Gavin Lang
- Metropolitan Trainer – Lance Justice
- Victorian State Driver – Chris Alford
- Victorian State Trainer – Shayne Cramp
- Gordon Rothacker Medal – Neville Welsh

INDUSTRY MILESTONES

During the year there were several milestones recognised by HRV:

- Gavin Lang drove his 5,000th winner, the first person to achieve the milestone in the Southern Hemisphere. He did it when he drove Takeiteasyonme to victory at Warragul (his birthplace 53 years earlier) on 13 August, 2012
- Greg Sugars drove his 1,500th winner at Maryborough behind Master Pip on 13 June, 2013
- Glenn Douglas trained his 1,500th winner, Jukebox Music, at Melton on 4 January, 2013
- Nathan Jack drove his 1,000th winner, El Paco, at Melton on 14 December, 2012.

VICBRED PLATINUM

The HRV Board was grateful for the state government's support for the Vicbred program, with the announcement of the new Vicbred Platinum series. The \$3.4 million scheme over four years, jointly funded by HRV and the state government, has proven immensely popular with breeders, owners and trainers in Victoria. The Country Series and the Platinum Mares Races attracted full fields and quality racing.

AWARDS

- HRV's major sponsor, owner and friend to the industry, Rob Merola from SEW-Eurodrive was awarded Harness Racing Australia's highest honour during the year. The JP Stratton Award recognises individuals who have served the harness racing industry with distinction, shown leadership and demonstrated a high level of achievement. Rob is a worthy recipient
- HRV's metropolitan venue at Tabcorp Park received two awards during the year
- At the Melton Business Awards, Tabcorp Park was judged the Best Hospitality and Tourism Business

- The Choice Hotels group at their annual awards recognised Tabcorp Park with their Gold Award in the Quality Hotel category.

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

- In October 2012, the new track at Swan Hill was opened with the running of the 2012 Nyah Pacing Cup
- The Cranbourne Training Complex opened in September 2012
- A \$620,000 upgrade of the Ballarat track was opened in March 2013.

Finally, as a consequence of a positive financial result for 2012/13, HRV has announced a \$2.5 million increase in stakes for the 2013/14 season taking total stakemoney to in excess of \$36 million.



The new fiscal year and subsequent racing season brought with it an air of optimism following the integrity challenges we confronted during the previous 12 months.

With the fullness of time Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) can be well satisfied with the way these unfortunate actions were managed as we set out to not only fully investigate them, but to ensure the correct protocols and procedures were put in place so that such fraudulence is never repeated.

In addition to the comprehensive HRNSW investigation, NSW Police initiated Strike Force Tairora, which resulted in numerous arrests, convictions and, in some instances, custodial sentences.

The importance of the relationship between HRNSW and NSW Police cannot be overstated. This, when combined with a doubling of our integrity budget to \$1.4 million, provides the platform for the strongest and most far-reaching regulatory outcomes.

The additional funding was used for various integrity strategies including the appointment of a dedicated form analyst, surveillance, external investigations, additional staff, out of competition testing, frozen sample storage and, most importantly, an increased number of race-day swabs.

On a more inspiring note, the 2013 Inter Dominion was a superb event.

The revamped series was 18 months in the making and the result of a tripartite commercial accord between Destination NSW, the NSW Harness Racing Club (NSWHRC) and HRNSW.

The new format provided two significant television broadcasts – the Sky 2 coverage of the Qualifying Heats

and the Channel Nine, Wide World of Sports, national telecast of the Grand Final. It was the first time an Inter Dominion Grand Final had been seen live on free-to-air television for 25 years.

While the structure of the 2013 series didn't please everybody, there was no disagreement about the astonishing winning performance by the West Australian champion Im Themightyquinn in the 'decider'. To see a horse romp home to victory from last in a field of 14 was, indeed, incredibly special.

Of course the Inter Dominion was just one of seven Group One events decided on the day. In all, a record-breaking \$2 million in prizemoney was distributed.

The Inter Dominion meeting also provided us with a fascinating insight into shifting betting trends and the evolution of customer preferences.

In all, just over \$9 million was invested with Australian wagering operators across the program's 10 races. Naturally this was a very pleasing result, but it is the breakdown of these figures that created the most interest.

Turnover on the NSW TAB equated to 25 per cent of the total turnover; fixed odds turnover was 30 per cent of the total turnover through the NSW TAB; total turnover from all wagering operators was a massive 44 per cent higher than the corresponding Inter Dominion Grand Final meeting in 2010.

Of course the NSW TAB remains HRNSW's predominant funding source. In 2012/13, total turnover on our product through the NSW TAB increased by \$5.56 million or 3 per cent. This was achieved by an increase in fixed odds betting of \$22.61 million, which more than offset the decline in pari-mutuel turnover of \$17.05 million.

Meantime our female participants continued to be more than just competitive against their male counterparts.

Amanda Turnbull surged to a comprehensive win in the statewide Drivers Premiership, while Lauren Panella had an amazing run of success in the second half of the season to finish runner-up. Ms Panella also honed her talents with a polished riding display to win the International Monte race on Breeders Challenge day.

In the metropolitan area the husband and wife team of Luke and Belinda McCarthy dominated the driving and training ranks with easy victories in the respective premierships at Tabcorp Park Menangle. Steve Turnbull claimed a runaway win the statewide Trainers title.

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

For the first time the Alabar Breeders Challenge Finals carried \$100,000 divisions for both 4-year-old entries/geldings and 4-year-old mares. We look forward to the introduction of the Breeders Challenge Nominators Bonus next season which, once fully rolled out, will return \$1 million per year to breeders.

In the 2012/13 season HRNSW developed a

partnership with the well-known Australian rock artist Shannon Noll. It proved to be a great success and provided strong awareness for the meetings he performed at and was matched by increased attendances. We look forward to announcing a similar venture in 2013/14.

Additionally, Shannon starred alongside Ashlee Siejka in a television commercial, which was well received locally and won an award at the World Trotting Conference in Paris.

It has been well documented that HRNSW received \$25 million from the sale of Harold Park. That money has been set aside for an infrastructure program which includes new facilities at Bathurst, Wagga, Tamworth and Menangle Park (training centre) and upgrades at Goulburn (completed), Penrith, Newcastle and potentially Hawkesbury (as a training centre).



The first 'sod' of soil has been turned at Bathurst with the project likely to be completed in June 2014. It is a very exiting outcome for the western districts region, which represents a significant percentage of the overall industry.

The Menangle Park Training Centre will complement the world-class racing precinct developed 'next door' by the NSW HRC.

Most positively, total prizemoney paid in 2012/13 was \$31.34 million. This compared extremely favourably with the total prizemoney paid in 2011/12 of \$27.21 million or an increase of 15.2 per cent. Unsurprisingly it was the first time total prizemoney in NSW climbed above \$30 million.

This major boost became possible as a result of the new income stream achieved by the NSW HRC from the sale of Harold Park and the availability of Race Fields income following the High Court victory in 2012.

HRNSW finished the year with an interim surplus of \$205,000 despite the fall in interest rates, which are important to supplement our income through investments.

In summary, 2012/13 was a pleasing period; however, many challenges remain. HRNSW will release its Strategic Plan during 2013/14 outlining our future objectives and identifying the strategies designed to achieve them.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the Hon George Souris, the Minister for Racing, for his efforts and support of the harness racing industry.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members, Chris Edwards, Graham Kelly, Alex Smith and Rod Smith as well as the management team and staff at HRNSW under the leadership of Chief Executive Sam Nati.



Tasracing is responsible for the commercial performance of the Tasmanian racing industry.

Growing wagering turnover is a key goal of the company.

Increasing turnover is important because of the revenue that is generated for industry through race field fees. Given this focus it is pleasing to note that wagering turnover on Tasmanian product in 2012/13 grew by \$28 million to \$403.7 million. This 7.7 per cent increase followed growth of 8.4 per cent across all three codes in 2011/12.

Harness racing in Tasmania consolidated its impressive 2011/12 wagering performance (5.71 per cent growth) with a 0.16 per cent increase in turnover in 2012/13.

The number of Sky meetings increased from 74 (2011/12) to 78 and the number of races on Sky increased by five.

Many interstate-based horses are being sent to Tasmania, resulting in a positive impact on wagering, field sizes and the competitiveness of racing. Tasbred starters comprised 50.1 per cent – up from 48.25 per cent (2010/11) and 49.28 per cent (2011/12).

There was compelling evidence during 2012/13 that Tasmanian open-class racing over the past 12 months was strong. The success of Tasmanian horses at Melton and Menangle clearly indicates Tasmanian discretionary handicaps and free-for-all's are an ideal pathway to further success interstate. Winners of quality interstate races included Left Loaded, Our Sir Jeckyl, Drifting West, Laterron, Cosmic Under Fire, Twilight Town, Gamblers Rustler, Thirsty Mach and Quastor Centurion.

A major focus during the year was the ongoing evaluation of harness activities at Tapeta Park all-weather surface at Spreyton on the state's north-west coast. Four race meetings were conducted at the venue in 2012/13. The first was Australia's inaugural harness race meeting on a synthetic surface in July 2012.

The first three meetings at Tapeta Park attracted good fields and pleasing wagering. A positive aspect of the fourth meeting was the racing surface, which was

praised by trainers and drivers and resulted in a good pattern of racing with horses winning and placing from a variety of positions.

Following a thorough analysis of harness activities at Tapeta Park, which included consultation with industry participants, Tasracing determined that harness training at the venue is appropriate and can continue under the present arrangements. Further harness race meetings at Tapeta Park will be considered subject to funding and appropriate broadcast availability.

In line with Tasracing's industry skills plan, mandatory qualifications aligned with national accreditations were introduced on 1 September 2012. A focus was to ensure industry participants had access to training opportunities in order to meet the requirements. Tasracing worked hard to secure external funding in order to provide training at subsidised rates with 199 harness participants attaining the qualifications.

A review was prompted following the exhaustion of external funding reserves. Consultation was undertaken with industry stakeholders and the requirements were streamlined but remained within the framework required to ensure a logical and consistent pathway for industry skills training.

In September 2011, Claiming Novice Driver (CND) conditions were amended to increase the number of claiming novice drivers and to extend their involvement in Tasmanian harness racing. The initiative has been successful with 28 CNDs in March 2013 compared to 13 in March 2011.

The process of industry consultation was reviewed resulting in a reduction in the number of groups and an increase in the frequency of meetings for the Harness Industry Forum (HIF). The HIF now meets quarterly and comprises representatives of all clubs, light harness associations and BOTRA (Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinspersons Association). The other group is the Harness Yearling Sale Working Group (HYSWG), which meets as required. Tasracing appreciates the time and contributions from all forum members.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2012/13 with:

- A Tasbred Bonus distribution of \$260,000
- Abolition of foal notification fees saving breeders more than \$35,000
- Allocation of \$276,000 to stakes for Tasbred heats and finals
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments of more than \$77,000.

The 2013 Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale was conducted at Inveresk in January. Thirty nine (39) horses were presented for sale with a colt reaching \$10,500 and the highest priced filly changing hands for \$7,000.

The sale aggregate was \$166,500 for an average of \$4,269. The buy-back rate was the lowest recorded for the eight sales conducted since 2006. The lower percentage was consistent with an observation from

the selling agents that the 2013 sale was the most competitive in eight years from a buyer's perspective.

The harness policy framework was strengthened with reviews of existing policies and new policies developed where required. Policy areas reviewed included race funding, abandoned or postponed race meetings, drivers series, Australasian Young Drivers Championship, driving fees and late scratching, Halwes Medal and the sulky scheme.

New saddlecloths were introduced following a recommendation from Harness Racing Australia aimed at standardising the harness product across Australia to increase the wagering appeal of the product. The saddlecloths are modelled on greyhound colours, with further combinations developed for number 11 and beyond. The new saddlecloths are more easily recognised than the traditional harness numbers and have been well received by wagering customers.

The provision of high-level form comments and analysis was funded by Tasracing for all Tasmanian harness races on Sky. Enhanced form information was accessible through the Tasracing and the Harness Racing Australia websites and has helped increase website traffic. Social media channels have been utilised to increase form distribution and engagement with younger audiences.

The 2012/13 Award Winners announced in late September were:

Smithawards Leading Female Driver Award	Kate MacLeod
St Mary's Pacing Club Leading Female Trainer Award	Juanita Mckenzie
North Eastern Pacing Club Leading Junior Driver Award	Dylan Ford
Foot & Playsted Leading Driver Award	Gareth Rattray
Saunders Signs Leading Trainer Award	Barrie Rattray
Safe and Sound @ Braebourn Stud Tasmanian 2YO Filly of the Year Award	Sweet Pea Jasper
Elderslie Horse Care & Spelling Tasmanian 2YO Colt or Gelding of the Year	Resurgent Spirit
Burnie Harness Racing Club Tasmanian 3YO Filly of the Year Award	Nola Mayhem
Corporate Communications Tasmanian 3YO Colt or Gelding of the Year Award	Pachacuti
Tasmanian Horse Transport Tasmanian Mare of the Year Award	Benediction
Tasmanian 4YO & Older Horse or Gelding of the Year Award	Beautide
Jetsonville Park Tasmanian Broodmare of the Year Award	Amarillen
Hivotech Innovation and Design Tasmanian Horse of the Year Award	Pachacuti
Halwes Medal (Sponsored by Botra Tasmania and Jamie Cockshutt)	Gareth Rattray
Young Achiever (Sponsored by Botra Tasmania)	Dylan Ford
The Edgar Tatlow Medal	Rod Burgess



**MARK J.
CAREY
CHAIRMAN
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

The racing year 2012/13 has been a positive one for Harness Racing in South Australia (HRSA), with some outstanding victories both on and off the track, although there are still many issues which threaten the wellbeing of our industry.

During the year HRSA paid out \$5.3 million in stake money maintaining the levels paid out the previous year. However, HRSA's market share of pari-mutuel wagering declined from 13.33 per cent to 12.02 per cent during the year.

Some of the factors influencing the result for 2012/13 include:

- Unforeseeable drop in TAB turnover from April 2012 due to the withdrawal of SATAB's largest professional punter. This significant downturn has impacted market share and wagering growth and continues to be a major issue for the SA racing industry given that TAB is a significant revenue stream
- The continued shift away from the South Australian pari-mutuel totalisator to other state TABs and corporate bookmakers who in turn are able to offer discounted wagering products
- The discontinuation of Tuesday night South Australian Harness racing
- The shift away from the South Australian pari-mutuel totalisator to TAB fixed-odds betting products (in particular thoroughbreds) which provide a lower return to the industry.

This year saw many successful highlights as HRSA continued to run in conjunction with the Member Clubs excellent events during the year. The major racing carnivals attracted big crowds and media attention:

- The SAHRC Summer Carnival was run at Globe Derby Park in January 2013 and attracted the largest crowd (6,500) since the 2007 Inter Dominion night in which the former South Australian trainer Lance Justice equalled race history with his outstanding horse Smoken Up to win the \$125,000 Betezy SA Cup for the fourth time, equalling the feat achieved by Gammalite back in the early 1980s
- The Southern Cross series was run at Globe Derby Park in June 2013. This provided owners and breeders with the opportunity to share in significant prizemoney for the two and three-year-olds that are eligible for the series
- The Country Cups throughout the year were well supported with Gawler, Port Pirie, Mt Gambier,

Victor Harbor, Whyalla, Strathalbyn and Kadina all conducting feature Cup events, which were well supported and keenly contested events

- The BOTRA Golden Nursery night held in August again proved to be an outstanding night for owners of juvenile horses and all credit to the BOTRA committee who raised in excess of \$40,000 in sponsorship to host the night and provide attractive and substantial prize money
- The SA Square Trotters Carnival held in May/June provided an entertaining three-day carnival series culminating with the SA Trotters Derby and the time-honoured Gramel series.

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

- Restructure of SA harness racing dates and prizemoney
- Integrity Review
- HRSA increased support to assist the SAHRC in the day to day administration
- Increased sponsorship for the Harness Code
- Revamped Southern Cross Series
- Expansion of the SAMOS Breeding scheme
- Economic benefits study
- SA Harness Racing wagering initiatives.

The Board's Strategic Plan is being reviewed in light of the changing racing industry landscape and the increased competition between the new wagering operators and traditional pari-mutuel operators. The Code's mission is to grow a strong and vibrant harness racing industry by developing a compelling racing product for our target markets, increasing participation, promoting racing excellence and integrity, generating revenue growth from wagering, and maximising returns to its stakeholders.

The HRSA Board must meet the challenge of increasing HRSA's market share and focus strongly on increasing wagering on our local product. This will be achieved in many ways including focusing on maximising field sizes, reducing the number of odds-on favourites, extended form guide coverage and promotion of jackpot information to TAB wagering clients.

With the State Election in March 2014, HRSA together with the other two racing codes will strongly lobby both parties to increase support to the racing industry in this state. With respect to this, we have already completed a size and scope report on the South Australian racing industry outlining industry statistics and the economic impact to this state.

The three codes have also developed a SA Racing Industry Policy and Vision report, which we will seek bipartisan support.





**ROSS
BOWE
CHAIRMAN
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

During the 2012/13 season Racing and Wagering Western Australia provided harness race clubs with payments for stakes of \$22.2 million and a further \$1.10 million in Westbred Bonus payments.

These monies were distributed across 278 meetings encompassing 2,335 races, which provided 23,169 racing opportunities for 2,331 individual horses at an average of 9.93 starts per horse.

The 23,169 starters were trained by 505 individual trainers with 55 trainers having 100 or more starters for the season and 23 having 200 or more starters for the season. There were 40,841 nominations processed to generate the 23,169 starters.

There were 121 trainers who each had less than 10 starters for the season.

There were 263 individual drivers who drove in races in 2012/13 (down from 285 the previous season) with 52 having 100 or more drives for the season and, at the other end of the scale, 90 drivers had less than 10 drives.

For the first time there were eight individual Western Australian drivers who recorded 100 winners for the season headed by Gary Hall Jnr who drove 237 winners in Western Australia plus five in the eastern states for a season tally of 242. The horses he drove in 2012/13 earned more than \$3.6 million in stakes.

He also set a new record for city wins in a season when he landed 163 winners at Gloucester Park for the season and almost 100 winners clear of runner-up Chris Lewis with 69 city winners.



Of the eight Western Australians to pass the 100 wins milestone, three were aged under 25YO which

augurs well for the future. Among that trio was Morgan Woodley who became the youngest Western Australian to drive 1,000 winners when he won with To Transcend at Gloucester Park on 6 August.

The Western Australian Rising Stars Series was won by twenty-year-old Dylan Egerton-Green, who represented the state in New South Wales, winning a heat of the NSW Rising Stars Series at Bathurst in June.

Gary Hall Snr broke his own record for a Western Australian trainer when starters from his stables earned more than \$3.18 million nationally with \$2.71 million in Western Australia.

TAB wagering on Western Australian harness racing decreased by \$3.9 million or 5 per cent in relation to the prior year. There was a fall of \$5,000 or 0.9 per cent in Fixed Odds wagering on Western Australian harness racing when compared with the previous year.

A new directions paper was developed for Western Australian harness racing, outlining key strategic opportunities for the 2012/13 – 2013/14 racing seasons. Key strategic areas for 2013/14 include Club Compliance to OHS, Returns to Owners, Club Infrastructure and Capital Works and Financial Sustainability to Racing and Wagering Western Australia Business.

RWWA, in a tangible demonstration of its support for the Western Australian breeding industry introduced the EPONA Mares Bonus scheme.

This scheme, which commenced on 1 March 2013, rewards race-winning mares by providing a 10 per cent bonus over and above the winning stake. These monies form a credit for the mare to a maximum of \$5,000 and can be claimed against when the mare retires to stud in Western Australia.

From March until the end of the season a total of 161 mares earned at least one EPONA Bonus winning a total of 269 races and generating \$164,000 in credits. Four mares each earned the maximum credit amount of \$5,000.

Im Themightyquinn won his third successive Inter Dominion in the 2013 Championship held at Menangle in New South Wales in a sensational performance.

Im Themightyquinn has joined Our Sir Vancelot and Blacks A Fake as winners of three successive Inter Dominions and he will have the opportunity in 2014 of joining Blacks A Fake as the only horse to win four Inter Dominions.

Western Australian bred youngsters dominated the open two-year-old classics winning four of the five Group One races for that age group. Only the New Zealand-bred colt Class Of Tara was able to break the Western Australian stranglehold when he took out the \$125,000 Golden Slipper Stakes.

A pair of colts purchased at the 2012 Western Australian Yearling Sale dominated the 2-year-old colts division. Mister Jadore, a \$17,000 purchase, won the \$100,000 WA Sales Classic while the \$8,500 buy Swagga took out the \$100,000 Pearl Classic.

Artistic Copper, passed in at the 2012 WA Sale after failing to reach her \$10,000 reserve, won the fillies division of the \$100,000 WA Sales Classic while Highest Royalty, also passed in after failing to reach her \$10,000 reserve, took out the \$100,000 Diamond Classic.

The WA Oaks was a season's racing highlight when the brilliant Sydney filly Frith withstood a torrid run to take out the Group One classic for Sydney trainer/driver Bruce Harpley.

The WA Derby field was dominated by the New Zealand bred colt Alta Cristiano, which raced outside the leader Slick Chapel before dashing clear in the straight to give trainer Gary Hall his first win in the state's premier race for three-year-olds.

Runner-up in the Derby was Macha for Victorian trainer Dean Braun, who was on his second trip west for the season.

Braun took out his second successive McInerney Ford 4YO Classic when Chancellor Cullen led throughout to win the Group One classic from Bronze Seeker. He won the race the previous season with Mustang Mach.

The Pinjarra-trained Im Victorious won the \$175,000 Golden Nugget Championship to give trainer Michael Brennan his second Group One success following on the win by Im Victorious in the 2012 WA Derby.

Im Victorious is bred on the same cross as Australasia's best pacer Im Themightyquinn being by Washington VC from a mare by Sokys Atom.

Another son of Washington VC in Dasher VC caused an upset when a brilliant front-running drive from Chris Lewis saw the six-year-old hold on to beat Im Themightyquinn by a head in the \$250,000 Fremantle Cup.

Im Themightyquinn had beaten Crombie and Dasher VC a week earlier in the \$400,000 WA Pacing Cup to bring up the gelding's third successive win in the 100th running of the state's premier harness race.

The win gave his trainer Gary Hall Snr his seventh WA Pacing Cup success in a period of 12 years and he is now the leading trainer in WA Pacing Cup history.



**KEVIN
DIXON
CHAIRMAN
QUEENSLAND**

As Chairman of the predominant racing control body in Queensland, I am pleased to present the initial contribution to the Harness Racing Australia Annual Report for the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board, trading as Racing Queensland.

The Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board came into being through an Act of Queensland Parliament on 1 May 2013 and is a statutory board under the jurisdiction of the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

This date marked a significant change to the administration of racing in Queensland with three boards being appointed to lead racing into the future, under the control of one overarching board.



These boards comprise the overarching Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board and one for each code of racing being: the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board, the Queensland Harness Racing Board, and the Queensland Greyhound Racing Board.

The 11 members of these boards were selected in a rigorous external selection process and ultimately approved by the Minister, Hon Steve Dickson MP. They have my full confidence that they will deliver the best result possible for racing in Queensland.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the members of the Queensland Harness Racing Board with the appointment of the Chairman Brad Steele, a banker by profession and a former President of the Redcliffe harness racing club who has significant experience in the industry as an owner, administrator and breeder.

He is also a member of the Queensland All Codes Board and sits on the Executive of Harness Racing Australia.

The Deputy Chairman is Warwick Stansfield, a former Chairman of the Albion Park Harness Racing Club, a member of the interim Racing Queensland Board and former member of the Harness Racing Australia Executive.

The third Board member is prominent owner and breeder Greg Mitchell, who is a successful businessman based on the Gold Coast with interests also in Gladstone.

I wish these gentlemen every success in their undertakings for harness racing in Queensland.

During the harness racing season in south-east Queensland there was a smorgasbord of talent on display with many success stories to relate.

The reigning Queensland 4-year-old and older Horse of the Year, Washakie, had previously finished 4th, 3rd, and 2nd in Queensland's richest race, the Queensland Pacing Championship. Washakie broke his hoodoo and went one better to win the 2012 edition.

The race also signifies the start of the Grand Circuit season for pacers and the win of Washakie came to no more deserving horse, as he has travelled all across Australia in search of riches, never backing down from a fight along the way.



This edition also signalled the end of the McCarthy family stable operations in Queensland. Preparing many top horses over the years such as Be Good Johnny, Fleur De Lil, Slipnslide and of course Washakie from their Logan Village base, the McCarthy family chose to move interstate to be closer to family, leaving a large void in the training ranks in the process.

As one door closes another one opens, and the Chairman's Scholarship winner from last season, Bart Cockburn, took the lease on McCarthy's property, allowing the fledgling trainer to increase numbers and move 'full-steam ahead' into the training ranks of the Queensland harness fraternity.

The move has borne instant success for Cockburn, finishing fourth in the State trainers premiership, with only the deeply established stables of Darrel Graham, Vicki Rasmussen and Grant Dixon ahead on the premiership table.

Grant Dixon, a previous employer of Cockburn, was again the state's leading trainer, adding to his inaugural success in the title last season. With over 200 winners saluting for the season, it was once again left to the Tamborine Tornado, Majestic Mach, to be the star pupil under Dixon's tutelage.

Returning to the racetrack for his 3-year-old term, everyone was keen to see how long his unbeaten stretch would continue. Majestic March finished his 2-year-old season with a perfect record but the unbeaten stretch came to an end at start number 13, when he finished second in the NSW Pacers Derby.

That defeat has been his only defeat thus far.

With his record standing at 23 wins from 24 starts, there is every indication that he will go on to be one of the great horses of the sport.

Kylie Rasmussen is the only other driver to have sat behind Majestic Mach under race conditions and season 2012/13 was also a successful one for Kylie's star mare Forever Gold.

Queensland trainers managed to taste some interstate Group racing success over the season. Kylie Rasmussen and Forever Gold were successful in the Group Two Robin Dundee Stakes at Menangle.

Meanwhile, Graham Seymour had Group success at Menangle when Caesar Augustus reigned supreme in the Simpson Sprint.

With new structures and new appointments to the respective Boards having taken place in the past year, the challenges ahead in rebuilding the Harness code will be tackled enthusiastically and vigorously.

In addition, the highly successful QBred Incentive Scheme has been reviewed in consultation with the industry and will commence from the start of the 2013/14 racing and breeding season.

Wagering turnover on TattsBet on the local harness product during 2012/13 returned an encouraging result with an increase in turnover of 6.63 per cent.

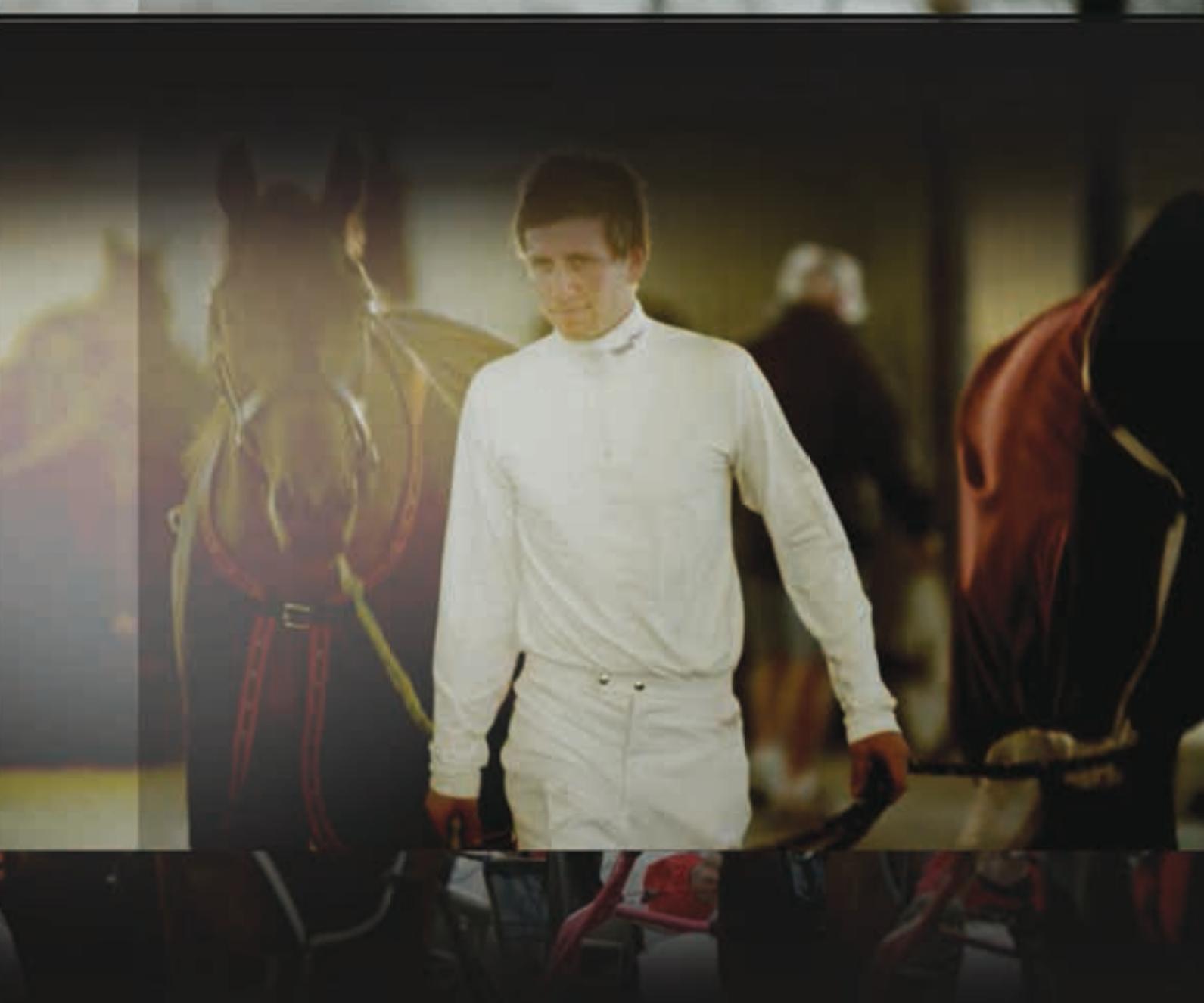
In closing I wish to extend a warm welcome to Racing Queensland's recently appointed Chief Executive Officer Darren Condon and to thank Adam Carter for his efforts in the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Finally, I would like to recognise the great support the Board and I have received since taking up our appointments from the staff, our joint venture partners in TattsBet and SKY Racing, a myriad of contractors, the industry associations in HRA and BOTRA, the media and the harness racing fraternity that campaign in Queensland.





**WE WILL
TROT
YOU!**



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