

AUSTRALIAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

2025 ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

AQHA



IT'S IN OUR BLOOD.

2025 NON PRO FUTURITY LEVEL 4 CHAMPION
COREY SMITH - HPH WHIZKEY AT THE BAR Q-96900
PHOTO BY: KEN ANDERSON EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY



DONNA GRECH
THREE MARES - ONE PASSION



A MOTHER-DAUGHTER JOURNEY WITH
HOIHO SANDMAN Q-78985



TERRY AND LIZ SMITH STAR MARE
VINTAGE WHISKEY Q-81337



5TH ANNUAL TROPICANA CLASSIC

PEPTOBOONSMAL
SIRE: HES A PEPTOSPOONFUL
MISS SMARTY REY

DUAL REY
DAM: RS SOLA REY ME
SOLA GUN

RS CHISUM

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HERDA, HYPP, PSSM1, MH, GBED, MYHM = N/N, OLWS = N/R



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PHOTO BY ROSS HECOX

Smooth As A
cat

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BOONS metallic

Q-94125 • 15HH • LIVER CHESTNUT STALLION
HERDA, OLWS, PSSM1, MH, GBED = N/N, HYPP = N/R
MYHM = N/MYHM

SIRE:
METALLIC CAT
(IMP) Q-72828

DAM:
SMART LIL BOONIE
(IMP) Q-90777

BOONS METALLIC RESULTS

- 2022 VICTORIAN FUTURITY NON PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE FINALIST
- 2022 NON PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE FINALIST
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- 2021 WINGMAN AUTUMN SPECTACULAR OPEN & NP CLASSIC FINALIST
- 2019 CATTLEMAN'S OPEN DERBY FINALIST WITH CLINT ALLEN
- 2018 NCHA FUTURITY NON PRO SEMI FINALIST

BOONS METALLIC PROGENY



TYRELL PARK METALLIC BOON

- 2024 SCONE FUTURITY NP FUTURITY FINALIST
- 2024 SAINT GEORGE NP FUTURITY FINALIST
- 2025 NUTRIEN SALE HIGHEST PRICED STALLION SOLD



TYRELL PARK REYN METALLIC

- 2025 NCHA FUTURITY RESULTS
- NON PRO DERBY FINALIST
 - AMATEUR NON PRO 3RD PLACE
 - LIMITED NON PRO 3RD PLACE



TYRELL PARK LUCKY BOON

- 2025 NCHA FUTURITY RESULTS
- 2025 NCHA NON PRO FUTURITY FINALIST - 6TH PLACE

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Tyrell Park

AUSTRALIAN Quarter Horse ASSOCIATION



2025 NON PRO FUTURITY LEVEL 4 CHAMPION
COREY SMITH AND HPH WHIZKEY AT THE BAR Q-96900
PHOTO BY: KEN ANDERSON EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY

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IT'S IN OUR BLOOD.

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Develop and implement procedures that ensure humane treatment of all horses and animals associated with the breed; Develop diverse educational programs, material and curriculum in order to position the Association as one of the leading organisations in the Australian Equine Industry; Record and preserve the pedigrees of the Australian Quarter Horse; Maintain the integrity of the breed; Provide beneficial service for our members which enhance and encourage Quarter Horse Ownership and participation; and Generate growth of the AQHA Membership via the marketing and promotion of the Association.

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RICKY GLEN - PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It's with great pleasure to present my presidents report for 2025.

The past 12 months has seen me complete my second term as President and I thank the board for the support they have shown in me during this time. As like the previous 12 months, I have worked to ensure the board is more transparent to the membership with more reports to update members on the happenings within the AQHA and from reports from members received, it has been a success with the membership.

The past 12 months has seen growth in memberships and registrations of horses within the AQHA, the nationals were again a success, and I hope Q26 is bigger and better again.

We have had a small loss these last 12 months but please look at the balance sheet to see what has been spent and what has been received, if the printing of the rule book had not fallen into this past year, we would have again made a profit.

We have spent money across the board on programs to benefit our members from increases in prizemoney for the nationals, a new judging program to help us foster new judges into the judges ranks. Greater incentives have been introduced into the Cattle and Timed event which has seen our memberships and registrations grow. More money spent on Affiliates with more to come in this area as well.

Our Pro Horsemen are ensuring all trainers are qualified by way of better understanding the requirements of trainers across the board and of course the Youth program is getting bigger and bigger and the 2025/26 membership year will see free

memberships to all youth within the AQHA.

Our Amateurs are benefiting from free clinics across Australia and the Traditional events have now a range of online videos to check out. Show and Performance are working hard on the new rule book with the future adaption of accepting the USA show rules to suit Australia.

We will be looking at updating our Constitution over the next 12 months to bring us up to date and this is badly needed to ensure the AQHA is well covered under constitutional law.

Our marketing has greatly improved as well over the past 12 months with members getting up to date information from social media, this marketing of our brand across all events is a priority and a lot of time and effort has been put into this area.

I encourage you all to read all of the Portfolio holders reports to update yourselves on what has been happening there.

I must thank our GM Gemma Clarke and her team in the office, again well done for the past 12 months.

In closing, I thank the members who have taken their time to touch base with me about any issues they feel strongly about and of course the directors and the office are always available to take questions from the members of the AQHA.

I wish you all the best and look forward to catching up in the near future.

With Thanks,
Ricky Glen
AQHA President

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HIGH BROW CAT
SIRE: METALLIC CAT
CHERS SHADOW

SMART LITTLE LENA
DAM: THE SMART LOOK
DOX ROYAL SMOKE

DAM: ONE MOORE PEPTO

PEPTOBOONSMAL
SIRE: PEPTOS STYLISH OAK
MOMS STYLISH KAT

CHUKA SO SMART
DAM: ONE MOORE SMARTY
ONE MOORE SPIN

The Ultimate Cowhorse



LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2024 NRCHAA Open Spectacular Cowhorse Champion Horse
- 2024 NRCHAA Novice Boxing Champion Horse
- 2023 NRCHAA Open Cowhorse Champion Horse
- 2023 NRCHAA Limited Open Cowhorse Champion Horse
- 2023 NRCHAA Novice Cowhorse Champion Horse
- 2022 NRCHAA Novice Cowhorse Champion Horse
- 2022 ARCHA Open Futurity 6th
- 2022 NRCHAA Reserve Champion Limited Cowhorse Derby
- Won and placed in Reining events and placed and finaled in Campdrafts

OB

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2025 SERVICE FEE: \$1,650

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BEHIND THE BUCKLE



Hugh Miles and Vintage Whiskey Q-81337
with the 2025 Willinga Park Gold Buckle
\$100,000 Cheque - Photo credit: Ropes & Spurs

Terry and Liz Smith star mare *Vintage Whiskey* Q-81337 WINS THE WILLINGA PARK GOLD BUCKLE

PHOTOS BY: ROPES & SPURS PHOTOGRAPHY / TYLER PALMER / STACIE WELK / BRIE STANGER PHOTOGRAPHY

When the pressure is at its peak and only 1.5 points separate you from the pinnacle of campdrafting, what do you do? If you're part of the team behind Vintage Whiskey Q-81337, you wait, and hold your breath for the perfect run. "We were just hoping a cow would come into the yard that would suit her and Hughie," they recall. "If she could finish in the top 10 of the Willinga Park Gold Buckle, we would've been over the moon." But what followed, was a moment they'll remember forever.



WILLINGA PARK



Hugh Miles and Vintage Whiskey Q-81337 - 2025 Willinga Park Gold Buckle Champions

VINTAGE

The moment Hugh Miles posted a 91-point round in the final at the 2025 Willinga Park Gold Buckle, everything changed.

"Terry was yelling 'Go little girl!' over and over at the screen," they laugh. "When that score came through, I started shaking. We suddenly realised—we were in with a chance of winning the Willinga Park Gold Buckle!"

With some elite horse-and-rider combinations still to come, they could barely sit still. Then came the flood of messages—texts, calls, congratulations. But they wouldn't believe it until the draft was done.

"When the final finished, I looked at Terry and said, 'Did we just win Willinga Park?' It was surreal. We got very emotional. We've never won anything this big before."

The outpouring of support from the campdrafting community was overwhelming. *"It was the best feeling—an absolute dream come true."*

The road to that dream began long before Willinga Park. Vintage Whiskey Q-81337—lovingly called "Vintage"—

is a mare with a backstory that blends high hopes, setbacks, and resilience. She was purchased at the 2015 NCHA Sale, and bred by Jason and Rachel Leitch. She was sired by RS Chisum, out of Winderadeen Whiskey Cat. The aim at the time was to take her through the NCHA Futurity, and later into the campdrafting world.

"She was bred for it," they say. "Plenty of cow sense, and athletic—what we thought would be ideal for both disciplines."

But fate had other plans. An injury as a three-year-old ended her cutting career before it began. Vintage was turned out for a long recovery period and didn't have her first campdraft start until 2020, at the age of seven—just before Covid put the brakes on the sport.

Despite the slow start, her natural instincts never dulled. And her temperament? *"She's probably the sweetest horse we've ever owned," they say. "Kind, easy to be around. Her only vice is food—she loves it! She'll whinny and paw until she's fed."*

Vintage's journey from paddock to podium was shaped by a small but meaningful circle. Jason Leitch started her

in cutting, Terry gave her a start in the drafting world, and then their two daughters Kaitlin and Abbey took the reins. In 2023, when the girls stepped back due to work, they offered Vintage to family friend Brent Trotter, knowing Terry was too tall to ride her competitively.

Brent clicked with her instantly. He finalled her multiple times and secured her first draft win. But when Willinga Park 2025 came around, they turned again to Hugh Miles—a rider they'd always admired.

"We love the way Hughie rides—he's kind in the hands, he rates cattle well, and looks after his horses. He'd taken our stallion Treasured Acres to Willinga Park before and made the final. Vintage is a smaller mare—so Hughie really suited her."

In the lead-up to Willinga, the focus was on fitness and fine-tuning. Vintage worked regularly with their daughter Kaitlin and had a strong run with Hughie at the KPH Dash for Cash the weekend prior, finaling in the Open.

"She doesn't need anything fancy," they explain. "She gets trotted up a few times a week, works the mechanical cow, and occasionally sees live cattle. She loves it—it's what makes her so easy to prepare."

And it shows. What she lacks in size, she makes up for in heart. *"She gives everything she's got, every time."*

As the final round approached at Willinga Park, the field was stacked. *"It was extremely tight—any of those combinations could've taken it. It would come down to the cows. We were lucky enough to draw 13th out and get fresh cows."*

The run was sharp, fast, and full of feel. When the score came in, the celebration began—but the disbelief lingered until the very end. Adding to the pride was winning the AQHA Incentive Buckle, awarded to the top-placed registered Quarter Horse in the Willinga Park Gold Buckle.

"To be recognised by the AQHA Breed Association in such an elite field—it meant the world to us."

Programs like the AQHA Incentive, they believe, are vital for encouraging recognition and giving owners a sense of community. *"It gives people a reason to stay involved—it creates belonging."*

So, what's next for the little mare with the big heart?

After a well-deserved spell to freshen up, Vintage has just come back into work. She'll do a few local drafts in spring



Brent Trotter and Vintage Whiskey Q-81337 - Photo credit: Brie Stanger Photography

WHAT SHE LACKS IN
SIZE, SHE MAKES UP
FOR IN HEART...



Above photo of Vintage Whiskey Q-81337 in the NCHA Sale Catalogue as a yearling



Kaitlin drafting Vintage at Aberdeen Campdraft – Photo credit: Tyler Palmer



Abbey competing in the Snafflebit Cutting at PVCC Walcha Show – Photo credit: Stacie Welk

before heading to the breeding barn later in the year. But don't worry—you'll see her again.

She will definitely be back to defend her title. Hughie's keen to take her again."

In the meantime, she'll be out and about with Brent Trotter, with an eye toward the ABCRA National Finals in September and hopefully the Big Three in Queensland—Condamine Bell, Chinchilla, and the Warwick Gold Cup.

From injury to iconic, from sweet paddock pony to Willinga Park Gold Buckle Champion, Vintage Whiskey is living proof that heart, timing, and a little bit of patience can take you to the very top.

"She's got the heart of a lion, the mind of a champion, and the sweetest nature you could ask for." say the Smith Family.

"We always knew she had something special. Now, thanks to the right timing, the right people, and a whole lot of heart, the rest of the world does too."

And honestly? We're still saying it: *"Did we really just win the Willinga Park Gold Buckle?"*



RESULTS:

- 2023 NCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Champion
- 2023 DDCC Snaffle Bit Futurity Champion
- Finalist in all 2023 Snaffle Bit Futurities
- 2024 NCHA Futurity Campdraft - Ran a 89
- 2024 TSPH Maiden Campdraft Champion - 91 & 91
- 2025 Nutrien Classic Round One - Winner 92



#ashtag

FINALE 27

Q-98666 • BAY STALLION
HERDA, OLWS, HYPP = N/R, PSSM1,
MH, MYHM = N/N, GBED = N/GBED



— HIGH BROW CAT
— METALLIC CAT
— CHERS SHADOW
SIRE: HASHTAGS - US
— DUAL REY
— DUAL REY TAG - USA
— PLAYIN TAG

— DOC'S OAK
— DOCS SPINIFEX
— ROANIES LYNX
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SIRE

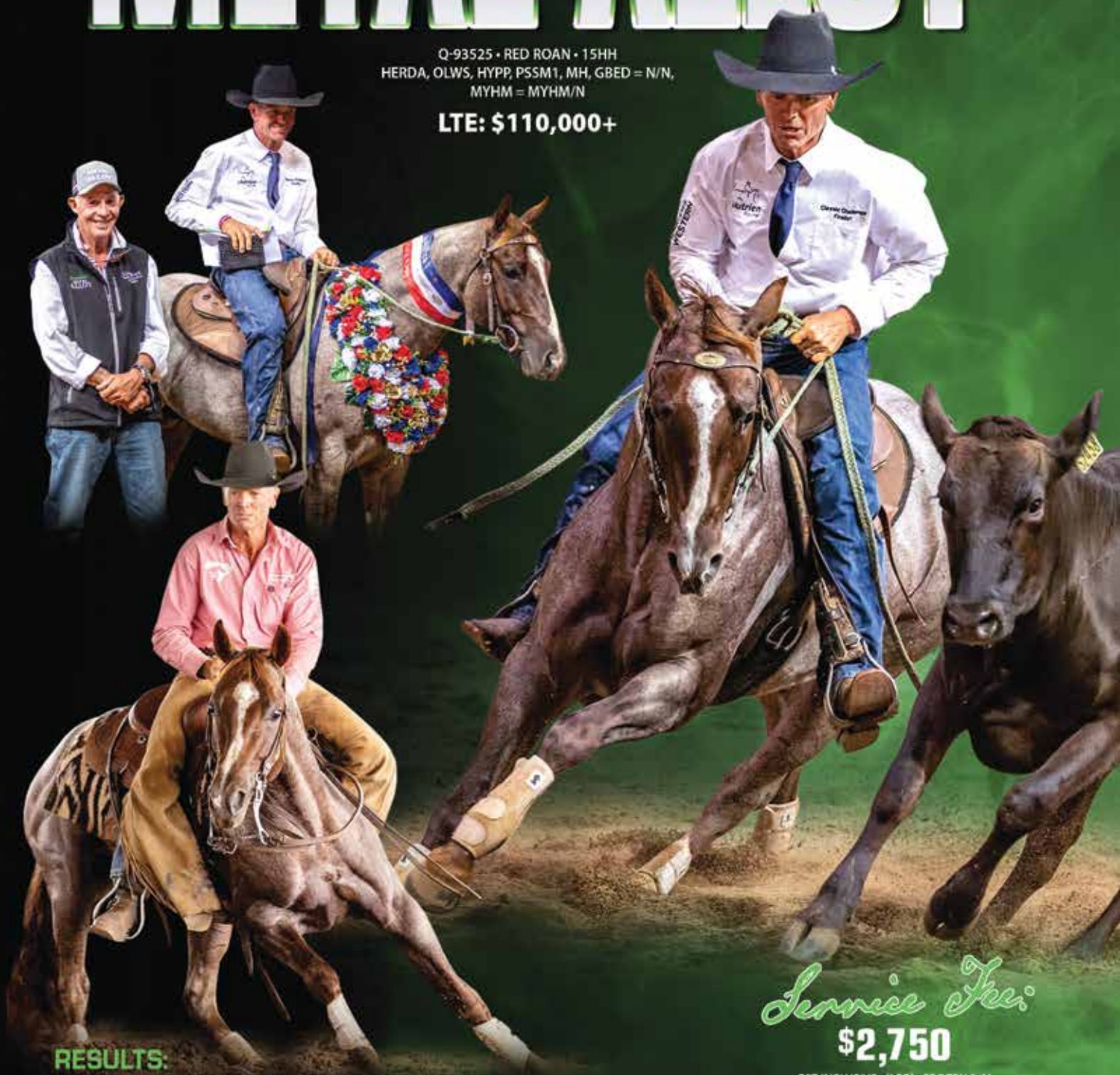
HIGH BROW CAT
METALLIC CAT
CHERS SHADOW

DAM

DUAL REY
REYS LITTLE HOTTIE
EB BUFFEL

Q-93525 • RED ROAN • 15HH
HERDA, OLWS, HYPP, PSSM1, MH, GBED = N/N,
MYHM = MYHM/N

LTE: \$110,000+



RESULTS:

- 2023 NUTRIEN CLASSIC CHALLENGE CHAMPION
- 2023 NUTRIEN CLASSIC CAMPDRAFT FINALIST
- 2022 COOYAR FUTURITY DRAFT WINNER
- 2022 CURLEY CATTLE TRANSPORT CLASSIC CHALLENGE CHAMPION - CLONCURRY
- 2022 OPEN NCHA DERBY FINALIST
- NCHA 4CYTE FUTURITY TAMWORTH
- 2021 ST GEORGE OPEN FUTURITY - CHAMPION
- 2021 SQCHA GOONDIWINDI 3YR OLD OPEN FUTURITY - CHAMPION



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AQHA TRAINERS PROFILE

Holly Skopp

PHOTO BY: EV LAGOON PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Tell us briefly about yourself.

I reside in Haigslea QLD with my husband Kane Skopp. We specialize in training AQHA Pleasure, Hunter, and All-Around horses alongside my mum, Carolyn Johnson at Rockin Horse Ranch.

2. When did you begin training and what made you want to be a trainer?

After my youth, I spent seven years training under the guidance of my mum, 'Carolyn Johnson Show Horses', which laid a strong foundation for my career. Horses have always been my focus, and I was fortunate from a young age to gain experience riding a wide range of horses across various ages and stages of development. This exposure ultimately inspired me to pursue the goal of running my own business. I've always preferred working outdoors and enjoy the process of teaching a horse to progress and reach its potential.

3. Which horse riding discipline do you enjoy?

My favourite is possibly the Western Riding, it's a challenge and when it's executed correctly it's a beautiful event to watch. I believe finding the event that your horse is most suited to your horse always makes it more enjoyable.

4. How long have you been involved in Quarter horses?

My entire life, my parents Carolyn and Fred Johnson are both Quarter Horse trainers and breeders.

5. What and who has inspired you the most as a trainer/rider?

My mum, Carolyn, and my husband, Kane. My mum began training horses in the early 80s when western horses were truly allrounders, some showing in the cutting and the pleasure in the same day. With her extensive knowledge, she continues to train today with the same dedication and commitment to her clients in making their dreams come true. She's constantly inspiring me to grow not only in the show pen but also in the care we provide for our horses and the pride we take in our business. Kane, my biggest supporter, is always pushing toward the next goal. His determination to become a better horseman and evolving have played a huge role in our success. He challenges me to continually improve my training and is constantly forward thinking in our breeding program.

6. How long have you been competing/training?

I began showing Cutting Horses when I was 7. I showed NCHA Hall of Fame horse 'Freckles Fancy Oak' and later moved on to showing AQHA all round horses when I was

7. Best advice you could give to someone starting out?

Find some show buddies and learn all you can. As you progress, find what events are best suited to your horse and build on those strengths. Many frustrations can come from asking your horse to do something it's not capable of doing. Try sourcing out a local respected trainer and invest in some lessons.

8. Who are the people who have helped you the most and influenced you?

Aside from my Kane and my parents, Mary and Bill Gale. The most generous and caring people who did everything to help us, not just in the horse world but everyday life. They treated us like we were family and Mary in particular, had a deep passion for spreading her love of the Quarter Horse and the Western industry. She welcomed so many AQHA members into the community, often gifting horses and tack to help them get started. This past Q Nationals she was there to watch her Son and great grandchild compete.

9. What is your proudest moment showing Quarter Horses so far?

I would say winning the 2yo LTD Western Pleasure at the 2024 All American Congress aboard 'Just Stoppin By', selected by my mum as a yearling in the NSBA Sale and purchased through the All4onePartnership with Kane, myself and Bruce and Kath Hegan. Although I have many moments I am grateful for in the show pen, I really enjoy teaching others and watching them achieve goals with their horse. One of my proudest moments was coaching the 2024 Youth WorldCup Team to Reserve Championship in the USA.

10. What are your future plans or goals with training & showing?

I strive to become a better horseman each year. With every season I learn something new, and the work becomes a little easier—thanks in large part to the continued improvement of our stock. My hope is that we can keep breeding horses that find it easy and enjoy doing their job.

11. What other interests/ hobbies do you enjoy or have?

There isn't a lot of spare time but when we can I love going to the beach and a favourite café!

12. Any items in your tack room you just can't do without?

A lungeline, spurs and a snaffle!

TRAINERS PROFILE - HOLLY SKOPP



THREE MARES *One Passion*

PHOTOS BY: EV LAGOON PHOTOGRAPHY / ACE PHOTOGRAPHY



Donna with her three beautiful mares - Last Of The Classics Q-103323, Southern Whispers Imp Q-95946 and Holey Cow Batt Man Q-98130

After time away from the show ring, Donna Grech has returned to the Quarter Horse Western Pleasure industry—not as a beginner, but as someone with a deep-rooted love for the sport and a refined eye for excellence. Her journey is one of rediscovery, resilience, and reignited passion for the partnership between horse and rider.

FROM THE BEGINNING-AGAIN

"In 2012, after a long break, I found myself drawn back to horses," Donna recalls. "I had shown Appaloosas for a few years before deciding it was time to switch over to Quarter Horses."

That decision would become the foundation for a whole new chapter. What started as a return to a familiar love quickly became a mission: to once again be part of a world that she had missed dearly.

"I just love watching a good pleasure horse," she explains. "The softness, the cadence—it's like watching a graceful ballerina. It may not be as easy as it looks, but when you get it right, the feeling is amazing."

THE HORSES THAT FOUND HER

As Donna settled back into the industry, she began building her dream team of horses—each with a story, a personality, and a unique connection to her.

She first spotted Last Of The Classics Q-103323, affectionately known as Clara, as a weanling. *"I wasn't ready to buy at the time,"* she says. But in 2023, while attending NSBA in Tulsa, Donna decided the timing was right to inspect a few yearlings in person. Clara was on her shortlist—but it was love at first sight.

"She was better in person than in the videos—lovely top line, great legs, and such a sweet, people-friendly nature. I was lucky to have Kane, Holly, and Caroline there for guidance, and I'm so thankful Jay and Kristy Starnes agreed to sell her to me before the sale."

Her second addition, Holey Cow Batt Man Q-98130—or Bailey—was a serendipitous find. Donna had nearly given up on finding a weanling when she saw Bailey's newborn photo on Machine Made's Facebook page. *"I contacted her breeder, Jean, and when I saw a video of her loping through the paddock with her dam, I knew instantly—she was the one."*



Left to Right - Holey Cow Batt Man Q-98130, Last Of The Classics Q-103323 and Southern Whispers Imp Q-95946

The third, Southern Whispers IMP Q-95946, known as Caroline, was imported in 2020 after a friend suggested she reach out to Jennifer Stiens. *"I was looking for a going mare, and she turned out to be exactly what I needed."*

MORE THAN RIBBONS

With all three horses, Donna has focused not just on results, but on progress. *"With Clara, I don't show her yet, but I love watching her improve at every event, it has been so rewarding. She's getting stronger, softer, and more solid in her work—she genuinely loves her job."*

Bailey, on the other hand, has proven to be the easiest ride. *"It comes naturally to her. She gives me confidence that I can do it."*

Then there's Caroline—powerful, sensitive, and intelligent. *"She's made me a better rider. I have to*

be more aware of my hands, legs, and pressure—but I think I've finally got it right... at least some of the time."

All three mares have had standout wins at Nationals, Sizzler, and NPHA, but for Donna, it's not about the ribbons. *"What I'm most proud of is when I improve on my last run—when I go out there and feel like I did my personal best."*

THE BONDS THAT MATTER

Behind every show ring success is a team—and Donna is quick to recognize hers.

"I'm so lucky to have my horses with Kane and Holly Skopp. They train and prepare them to perfection, and Holly is an amazing, patient teacher. We're a great fit. The way they train the horses makes it easier for them to adjust to me, and their support gives me real confidence."



Last Of The Classics Q-103323 shown by Holly Skopp for Donna



Holley Cow Batt Man Q-98130 and Donna showing at Q25



Southern Whispers Imp Q-95946 and Holly Skopp

Last Of The Classics Q-103323 and Holly Skopp

That support is vital, especially on show days. “My body doesn’t always cooperate, and I get nervous and put pressure on myself—but my team, both human and horse, gets me through. I love this, so it’s worth it.”

She also credits her husband, who’s “not so horsey,” for his constant support. “He gives me the opportunity to do what I love, and that means everything.”

FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY

So what defines a good pleasure horse, in Donna’s eyes?

“It’s that natural top line, the lift, the cadence, the softness in their legs—it’s effortless for them. And of course, a good mind is essential.”

Asked what advice she’d give to newcomers, Donna offers simple but powerful wisdom: “Find a trainer or mentor you feel comfortable with. Trust their guidance, and be patient.”

And finally, what matters most? “The friendships I’ve made along the way. My barn family is so supportive. Nothing is ever too hard for them.”

LOOKING AHEAD

As Donna continues to grow with her horses, her goals remain grounded and heartfelt.

“I just want to keep improving, to be more consistent. My girls are all special in their own way—I just want them to go out, do their best, and enjoy it. And I can’t wait for their future babies.”

For Donna Grech, the ride isn’t just about competition—it’s about connection, passion, and purpose. Her return to the Quarter Horse Western Pleasure industry is a reminder that it’s never too late to follow your heart, trust your gut, and let the horses lead the way.



Holley Cow Batt Man Q-98130 and Donna at Q25



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A Mother-Daughter Journey with HOIHO SANDMAN

Q-78985

PHOTOS BY: OZ SHOTS

Nancy and her family's introduction to the Quarter Horse world began not in an arena, but on a cattle property. After marrying her husband and joining life on the land, she quickly saw the value of incorporating Quarter Horses with strong working bloodlines into their daily operations. *"It didn't take me long to convince him,"* she laughs.

Their journey began with the purchase of a young colt and several well-bred mares. But it was during one of those early purchases that fate stepped in. Among the mares stood a rising three-year-old unbroken gelding—Sandman. *"We definitely weren't there to buy a gelding,"* Nancy recalls, *"but there was just something special about him."* Both Nancy and Alicia were captivated by his presence, they brought him home and started him under saddle—unwittingly beginning a journey that "something special" would eventually turn Sandman into not just a working partner, but a family legend.

Alicia's passion for show jumping was born in the bush, long before she ever set foot in a competition ring. Riding independently from the age of four, she was already mustering cattle on her family's property. Alongside her three older brothers, Alicia spent her childhood turning natural obstacles into makeshift jump courses—logs, gullies, and anything they could find to challenge one another. *"It became a game to see who could jump the highest,"* she recalls. That competitive spark led Alicia and her brother Jacob to their local Pony Club, where she got her first taste of structured show jumping. The thrill was instant. Recognizing their enthusiasm, her parents bought a seasoned show jumping mare to help her learn the ropes.



Alicia Creed and Sandman - 2024 Pony Club Queensland State Championship. Class-Power and Speed, clearing 90cm. After a sharp U turn that no other rider attempted. 1st place - Photo credit: Oz Shots



On the Property

With the basics under her belt, Alicia brought in Sandman, stepping up a level and never looking back. Today, it's still the adrenaline, the challenge, and the precision of cutting a smart, shortened course that fuels her love for the sport.

For Nancy, watching her daughter Alicia grow as a rider with Sandman by her side has been nothing short of inspiring. From a young age, Alicia showed a natural devotion to horsemanship—working with her first breaker at just 12 and committing herself fully to training and caring for multiple horses. But it's the partnership between her and Sandman that has truly captured Nancy's heart. *"They've shared miles together,"* she says—whether mustering cattle, navigating mountain country, or leaping logs and gullies with no room for error. Out there, there are no safety nets—just instinct, trust, and finely tuned communication. Every shift in balance, every cue, is deeply ingrained between them. It's this unspoken connection and their shared "no turning back" mindset that translates so powerfully into the show jumping ring. *"They have each other's backs,"* Nancy says with pride. *"They're a finely tuned team—and I love watching the magic."*

Asking Nancy and Alicia what makes Sandman such a standout, and their admiration is instant and heartfelt. For Alicia, it's his laid-back, cool-headed nature—no matter where he goes, Sandman remains calm and composed, yet ready to give everything when it's time to perform. *"You can point him at a cow or a one-metre jump and say go, and he'll give you his all,"* Alicia says. It's this reliability, paired with his agility and willingness, that makes him her perfect partner—especially for those tight, technical shortened courses Alicia loves to ride. Nancy sees in him the kind of horse you dream about: trainable, responsive, athletic, and genuinely kind. *"Sometimes I wonder if he's even awake,"* she laughs. *"But the second Alicia says 'let's go,' it's game on. He puts his heart into every run, then walks out like, 'Job done.'"* A horse with exceptional talent and an even bigger heart, Sandman, they both agree, would have excelled at any discipline. He's more than a competition horse—he's a once-in-a-lifetime partner. Sandman is a treasure.

After an unforeseen break from Showjumping in 2023 Alicia was keen to get to 2024 Pony Club Queensland State Championships. Their consistency and finesse saw them take home the Champion title for Jumping Equitation. But the real test began on day three. In the first Show Jumping class, a single rail down cost them, but Alicia regrouped and came back strong in the Power and



Alicia and Sandman at home on the cattle property



Alicia and Sandman - 2022 State



Alicia and Sandman - Personal Best 2024 1.20m



Alicia and Sandman - 2024 Personal best held 1.30m



Alicia and Sandman - 2025 winning Show Jumping Champion, a big goal set and achieved

Speed round, riding a technically daring shortened course that no other rider attempted—and winning it. In the third Class, Grand Prix, they made it to the final round but knocked one rail, giving them a 6th place and a 5th overall for 2024 Show Jumping Championships. Alicia came away confident with a new goal for 2025.

2025 Pony Club Queensland State Championships, Alicia put a lot of time into Sandman and mentally had a goal to reach. Then it poured rain for a week and flooded, *"we were lucky to get out in time to compete"*. Over four days, Nancy witnessed Alicia's total commitment to her training and goals. The first two days were devoted to Jumping Equitation, which Alicia used strategically as calm, low-pressure rounds to prepare both herself and Sandman for what truly mattered—Show Jumping.

In the first class, Alicia and Sandman took it careful coming in with a close 2nd place. Class two, Power and Speed, pulling off a smooth and seamless run saw them to 1st place. The title was almost in her grasp, then came the Grand Prix: three rounds, increasing difficulty. Alicia and Sandman rode clear in the first two. In round three, with jumps sitting at 1 metre, Alicia had a bold, high-risk short course in mind. Sandman, sensing the gravity of the moment, was all in. As they entered the arena, their team motto echoed: *"Leave it all on the course."* What followed was a performance so sharp and seamless it drew gasps from the crowd. When they cleared the final fence, they had not only sealed the lead but set a new standard. *"That was the best short course I've seen,"* the judge later told her. Against a field of tough competition, no other rider could match their precision and pace. That day, Alicia and Sandman didn't just win the Pony Club Queensland State Show Jumping Championship—they made a statement about heart, partnership, and the power of belief. *"Sandman did justice to all Quarter Horses that day,"* Nancy said proudly. *"Alicia had a goal, and together, they gave it everything."*

As horse owners and competitors it's not just measured in ribbons or titles—it's found in the deep bond they've built with their horse, especially Sandman. Alicia reflects on the, pure partnership that's been forged over years of working together across the pony club, showgrounds, and the rugged terrain of their family property. *"That feeling of complete trust,"* she says, *"is rewarding enough."* It's during the boldest shortened courses that Sandman truly shines. Navigating tight corners with barely a stride between the turn and the jump, where most horses might

hesitate or clip a rail, Sandman locks in—finding his footing, reading the moment, and giving everything he has. *"To pull off those tight courses, we both have to be totally in the zone,"* Alicia explains. *"If I don't ask, he won't just do it on his own. We have to commit—completely."* It's in those seconds of mutual focus and trust, when horse and rider are pushing the edge of possibility, that Alicia feels most proud of the team they've become.

Over the past four years since Sandman began competing in jumping, the duo have overcome their share of challenges and learned countless lessons—efforts that have paid off in the past two seasons. In 2024, Sandman was crowned State Jumping Equitation Champion for the 13 & Under 26 Years 70cm class, and in 2025, they reached another milestone, claiming the State Show Jumping Champion title for the 80cm class in the same age division. For Nancy, the rewards come from a broader perspective. *"Our horses are more than competitors—they're our mates, our work partners, our team,"* she explains. From breeding and raising them to watching them give their all in the ring, it's the quiet, loyal effort of these horses that brings the greatest sense of pride. *"That moment when you know your horse gave their best—that's the most rewarding part of all."*

For Alicia and Nancy, their shared passion for horses has become more than a hobby—it's a defining thread in their mother-daughter bond. Horse competitions have affectionately earned the title of their *"girl trips,"* the only time of year when they step away from the demands of life on the property. While these events may not offer the relaxation of a traditional holiday—filled instead with prep, pressure, and plenty of nerves—they offer something more meaningful: time together, shared goals, and mutual support. *"We definitely get to see each other at our highs and our lows,"* Alicia says. *"It would be a lot harder without Mum."* Back home, Alicia has grown into an independent and capable horsewoman, managing Sandman's care—from feeding and exercise to barefoot trimming—with a maturity beyond her years. Nancy steps in as a mentor and sounding board, always ready to guide or learn alongside her daughter. But at competitions, the roles shift slightly. Nancy takes on the all-important role of support crew—strapper, scheduler, feeder, and steady presence—so Alicia can stay focused. *"I've learned to only suggest short courses and let her commit,"* Nancy laughs. *"Sometimes I'll ask what turns are you going to try, she'll just say, 'all of them,' and that's my cue to step back and let her do her thing."* Their seamless teamwork is built not just on logistics but on deep respect, shared experience, and the unspoken

understanding only years of riding—and growing—together can bring.

Sandman's competition preparation is as varied as it is purposeful, designed to keep both his body and mind in peak condition. Alicia ensures his training regime stays fresh by rotating between sand work, boundary riding, free jumping, and mustering—activities that build strength, cardio fitness, and responsiveness. Mustering across rugged terrain and navigating natural obstacles like gullies and logs keeps him agile and sure-footed, while flatwork and jumping combinations fine-tune his focus for the arena. Nancy adds that their goal is always to keep Sandman *"fit and mentally fresh,"* believing that a horse needs to love what he does just as much as the rider does. It's a philosophy that clearly fuels their success.

In the early stages of their jumping career, Alicia and Sandman faced a common yet challenging hurdle—excitement. Once Sandman discovered his love for jumping, he became overly eager in the ring, rushing through courses, resisting Alicia's cues to steady. Despite her efforts to communicate through her seat and voice, the gelding was becoming increasingly hot to handle with precision. The breakthrough came when they returned to the fundamentals, stripping back their training to focus solely on flatwork and control. Through patience and consistency, Sandman began to listen and respond to Alicia's leg and rein aids, eventually regaining the composure and partnership needed for success in the jumping ring.

Reflecting on their journey, Alicia is quick to acknowledge the emotional rewards of horse ownership and competition. While the pressure and stress are very real, the true fulfillment comes from knowing she and Sandman gave their best. *"I never ride to be the winner,"* Alicia shares.

"I ride to the best of my horse's ability." Alicia's advice to other aspiring riders is simple but powerful: ignore the pressure, focus on your own journey, and be proud of what you achieve as a team. Nancy echoes this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of finding the right horse. *"It won't be perfect at the start,"* she says, *"but if you commit to that horse, the bond will grow, and so will the results—just in small steps."* Time, trust, and dedication, they both agree, are non-negotiable.

Looking ahead, Alicia is keen to see just how far her partnership with Sandman can go. With plans to return to another State Championship, provided Sandman remains fit and able, but she is also preparing a young horse to step up into higher classes. He is taller—above 14.3hh. But Alicia says *"I'll be putting everything I've learned from Sandman into this horse, my heart remains with the Quarter Horse breed, whose calm temperament and quick thinking nature, has rivaled 17hh jumping bred horses in the ring."* Sandman has gone up against a horse that we believe would have been 17hh, and won, that was for his 1.30m personal best. And he has had many wins against 16hh horses, Sandman is about 14.2 and a half on a good day.

Sandman may have started out as an unexpected purchase, but he's become much more—a steady partner, a fierce competitor, and the heart of a family's riding journey.

For Nancy and Alicia, the story isn't just about winning. It's about learning, trusting, and growing—together. *"Every ride,"* Alicia says, *"he shows me how much he's willing to give. That's all I could ever ask."*



Alicia and Sandman - 2024 State Championship. Class, Power and Speed 90cm. Coming round the corner over the last jump. 1st place – Photo credit: Oz Shots



Alicia and Sandman - 2025 State Championship. Class-Grand Prix. Final round at 1m. 1st place - Photo credit: Oz Shots



Alicia and Sandman - 2025 State Championship. Class-Grand Prix. Final round at 1m. This is the risky turn that proved too hard for others to achieve. Photo credit: Oz Shots



SCHEDULE OF FEES – EFFECTIVE 1ST AUGUST 2025

MEMBERSHIPS

Affiliate	\$1,295
Associate	\$100
Constituent	\$195
Constituent Promotional Membership – first time member	\$115
Full	\$195
Full Promotional Membership – first time member	\$115
Full Discount – spouse/partner as a Full member at same address, no Mag or Rule Book	\$115
Life – 20 years	\$2,505
Youth minimum age is 3 years old	Free
Youth Discount – same address as a Full member, no Magazine or Rule Book	Free
Youth Promotional Membership – first time member	Free
International Full/Constituent Membership	\$240
International Full/Constituent Promotional Membership – first time member	\$165
International Youth Membership	\$120
International Youth Promotional Membership – first time Member	\$95
Amateur/Select Amateur Permit	\$30
Professional Trainers & Clinicians	\$30
Novice Permit	\$No Cost

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State Show Approval	\$No Cost
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Non-Affiliated Club A Approval	\$70
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Show Result Book	\$15
Show Results lodged after 14 days and before 30 days	TBA

HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM

Horseback Riding Program – Lifetime registration, must be a financial member	\$NO COST
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REGISTRY

Initial Breeding Fee – must be paid prior to first service	
Colts / Stallions residing in Australia, prior to five (5) years of age	\$770
Colts / Stallions residing in Australia, over six (6) years of age	\$1500
If Stallion is bred prior to completing IBF, a substantial penalty fee will apply	
Breeding Return Book	\$25
Breeding Return Early Bird Special – Service dates between 1/8/24 and 28/2/25, lodged and fees paid by 28th February 2025	\$30
Breeding Returns lodged and fees paid by due date	\$40
Breeding Return lodged and fees paid within 3 months of due date	\$50
Breeding Return lodged and fees paid over 3 months past due date	\$120
Failure to keep stallion records up to date for more than 12 months	\$1,100
Permits (Retained Semen Permits, Oocyte Permits)	\$10 each



SCHEDULE OF FEES – EFFECTIVE 1ST AUGUST 2025

Early Bird Special – Completed application for registration received within three (3) months of foals date of birth with appropriate paperwork and fees includes PV – lodged & paid by 28TH FEBRUARY 2025	\$110
Gelding any age, includes PV	\$125
Colt/Filly within due dates, includes PV plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$125
Colt/Filly after due date but before 18 months of age, includes PV plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$220
Colt/Filly over 18 months of age, includes PV plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$250
Performance Registration - Geldings and mares, any age Includes Paternity/Maternity verification, HYPP, HERDA and OLWS tests	\$190
Imported Horse, if application received within 120 days of arrival in Australia plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$250
Imported Horse, if application received outside of 120 days of arrival in Australia plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$350
Import Semen registration and Initial Breeding Fee plus any other genetic tests as required by AQHA (see Genetic testing fees)	\$1500
Foundation Recording Mares, includes DNA, HYPP, HERDA, OLWS, PSSM1, MH, GBED, MYHM tests	\$235
Foundation Recording Stallions, includes IBF, DNA, 7 Panel tests	\$1375

GENETIC/COLOUR TESTINGS

GENETIC Tests Available – HERDA, HYPP, OLWS, PSSM1, MH, GBED, MYHM

COLOUR Tests Available – RED FACTOR / EXT, AGOUTI, GREY, CREAM DILUTION, DUN

1 test = \$55, 2 tests = \$75, 3 tests = \$85, 4 test = \$95, 5 tests = \$105,
6 tests = \$115, 7 tests = \$125, 8 tests = \$135, 9 tests = \$145, 10 tests = \$155

DNA	\$110
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Approved Sale inspection fee	\$10 per horse
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Correction of Registration certificate - within 30 days of receipt	\$No Cost
Correction of Registration certificate - after 30 days of receipt	\$16.50
Duplicate Certificate – Registration OR Awards	\$35
Extended Pedigree - 4 generations	\$35
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Lease Notification Renewal	\$50
Transfer fee for any horse registered or recorded with the Association	\$50
Rule Book	\$20



- REINING AUSTRALIA -

BEHIND THE BUCKLES THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE 2025 REINING AUSTRALIA NATIONALS

WORDS BY: SAM SMITH ★ PHOTOS BY: KEN ANDERSON EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nationals week at Tamworth's AELEC isn't just a horse show.
It's a pilgrimage — a gathering of old friends, new faces, and the horses we've spent
countless hours preparing to show on the sport's biggest Australian stage.



Ashleigh Backhouse and Mondure Oh What A Nite Q-98890
presentation for the Gold Buckle Open Futurity Championship



Non Pro Futurity Level 4 Champion
Corey Smith - HPH Whiskey At The Bar Q-96900



Kate Elliott, Breakoday Quarter Horses
Winner of the AQHA Breeder of the Highest placed
registered Quarter Horse - Nu Too Much Q-91387



Open Champion - Lana Kelderman
- Big River Dun With Guns Q-93523



Gold Buckle Rookie L1L2 Champion
Isabella Bailey and Blondiesgottagun Q-102625

This year's Reining Australia National Championships and Gold Buckle Futurity didn't just meet expectations; it surpassed them. From the smell of fresh coffee drifting through the barns at sunrise to the floodlit glory of late-night finals, it was a week where everything came together: world-class competition, deep-rooted camaraderie, and moments that will live in memory long after the last truck leaves.

THE EARLY MORNING RITUALS

Before a single run was called, the mornings were already humming with life. Riders and supporters gathered at the free competitor breakfasts — plates piled with bacon, eggs, and toast, hands wrapped around steaming mugs of coffee. Conversations flowed easily: seasoned campaigners swapping last-minute pattern advice, first-timers listening intently, and trainers quietly running through mental checklists for the day ahead.

Out in the warm-up arenas, the sound of loping hoofbeats and the rhythmic swoosh of spins mixed with laughter and good-natured teasing. Every so often a cheer would rise when a horse nailed a stop or a spin. Meanwhile, the volunteers worked quietly in the background, dragging the arenas, checking the draws, running errands, and solving problems before anyone else even noticed them — the invisible backbone of the event.

A NIGHT FOR LEGENDS

Midway through the week, competition paused for something special: the Hall of Fame inductions and High Point presentations. The room was full, hats in hands, as stories of past champions and industry trailblazers unfolded. There were bursts of laughter at show ring antics from years gone by, moments of silence for those we've lost, and tears for achievements decades in the making.

For newcomers, it was a crash course in the rich history of Australian reining. For long-time competitors, it was a reminder that the Nationals are not just about this year's winners — they're about honouring the people, horses, and moments that have shaped the sport.

THE FUTURITY — WHERE STARS ARE BORN

The Gold Buckle Futurity has always been the heartbeat of the Nationals — the place where the next generation of stars emerges. This year, it delivered two unforgettable stories and a full lineup of champions across all levels.

When Ashleigh Backhouse and Mondure Oh What A Nite entered the arena for the Level 4 Open Futurity, sponsored by Gold Buckle Trainers & Owners, the crowd leaned forward. Their run was pure electricity — stops buried deep into the dirt, spins that blurred into perfect pivots, and circles so precise they looked like they'd been drawn with a compass. By the time they slid to a halt on their final maneuver, the roar from the stands left no doubt: the buckle was theirs.

The other Open Futurity champions earned their titles in equally



Non Pro Derby Champion - Tyler Smith and Q Vista Step It Up Q-95142



Our headline Co-Champions were - Presley Baskerville and Star Spangled Destiny Q-85338 & Paiton Russell and Plum Outta Town



Gold Buckle Derby Champion
Michael Toohey and Funtime Chic Q-96614



Gold Buckle Green Rider Shootout
Teresa Toohey and Wimpys Chic OLena Q-85630



3yo Snaffle Bit Champion
Tyler Smith and Youve Been Thunderstruck Q-99625

commanding fashion. Shane Sainsbury and Reddy Set Showtime powered to the Level 3 win with an athletic, high-energy run that combined control with flair. In Level 2, Kailie Mudge and Einstrins Dunit Downunder laid down a smooth, correct pattern that showcased the kind of consistency every rider dreams of.

On the Non Pro side, Corey Smith and HPH Whizkey At The Bar pulled off one of the most impressive performances of the week. Sweeping Levels 4 (Equilume), 3 (SD Hydraulics & Hoses), and 2 (Natures Farmacy), Corey's polished, confident runs had the crowd behind them every step of the way. Their ability to also step into the Open competition and hold their own against the pros was a testament to the hours of preparation behind the scenes.

The Futurity, as always, gave us more than just winners — it gave us the first glimpse of future Derby contenders, the horses that will shape reining's next chapter in Australia.

DERBY DRAMA AND HISTORY

If the Futurity gave us goosebumps, the Derby delivered pure, history-making magic.

In the Open Derby Level 4, sponsored by AQHA, Lana Kelderman and Nu Too Much delivered the run of a lifetime — huge, fast circles, crisp rollbacks, and sliding stops that sent waves of dust rolling into the crowd. When the score came in, the arena erupted — they had not only won the title but matched the highest score ever run in Australia.

Sharing in that exact moment of history, Tyler Smith and Q Vista Step It Up laid down a single, flawless run that did double duty — counting for both the Open Derby Level 4 and the Non Pro Derby Level 4, sponsored by Howden. That one ride not only secured Tyler the Non Pro championship but also matched the all-time highest score ever recorded in the country. Two riders, two horses, two record scores — all in the same class, all on the same night. It was Nationals magic at its best.



Open Derby Level 4 Champion - Lana Kelderman and Nu Too Much Q-91387



Non Pro Futurity Level 4 Champion Presentation - Corey Smith - HPH Whiskey At The Bar Q-96900



Open Futurity Level 2 Champion - Kailie Mudge and Einsteins Dunit Downunder A2-4600



Open Futurity Level 3 Champion - Shane Sainsbury and Reddy Set Showtime Q-97372

In the other Derby divisions, Michael Toohey and Funtime Chic put on a masterclass of consistency, winning both the Open Derby Level 3 (Scoot Boots) and Level 2 (Beta Vet). Each ride showcased the combination of precision and poise that defines great Derby performances.

BEYOND THE ARENA

While the big runs made the headlines, the heartbeat of the Nationals could be found in every corner of the grounds.

Youth riders like Tomi Rose Elliott and Isabella Bailey inspired with their courage and skill, showing that the future of Australian reining is bright. Green Rider competitors, led by Shootout champion Teresa Toohey, reminded us that every champion starts somewhere — and that passion is as important as experience.

Specialty classes brought their own flavour. Brooke Du Plessis' Freestyle win on JA Shiney Nu Dunit was as entertaining as it was technically sound, combining personality and precision. In Masters, Donna Sadler demonstrated that age is no barrier to excellence, while Karen Lowe's Prime Time win brought the crowd to their feet.

Between runs, the barns were alive with moments of friendship and teamwork: someone offering a hand with saddling, a quick pep talk before the gate, or a group gathered around a phone replaying a run they'd just cheered for. Kids darted between trade stands with showbags, stopping to pat a horse or watch a warm-up spin. The soundtrack was a mix of music, laughter, and the rhythmic sound of hooves on dirt.

THE UNSUNG HEROES

No event of this scale happens without a small army behind the scenes. The arena crew kept the ground perfect, ensuring safe, fair footing for every competitor. Office staff worked long hours to keep draws, scores, and announcements flowing without a hitch. Gate marshals, announcers, scribes, and judges all played their part in delivering a smooth, professional show.

Sponsors were once again the cornerstone of success, stepping up to support everything from major championship divisions to youth prizes. Their commitment not only makes events like the Nationals possible but ensures the continued growth of reining across the country.

THE FINAL BUCKLE

As the last class wrapped up and the final buckle was presented, there was a shared feeling that went beyond trophies. The Nationals had delivered it all: fierce competition, personal milestones, record-breaking performances, and the joy of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

Trucks began to roll out, horses settled for the trip home, and conversations turned to the year ahead.

If you were there, you'll carry the sound of the crowd and the feel of the arena dirt under your boots for months to come. And while we don't yet know where the Nationals will call home in 2026, one thing's certain — wherever it is, the passion, talent, and camaraderie that define this event will be there waiting for you.



2025 - 5TH ANNUAL TROPICANA CLASSIC

3RD-13TH JULY 2025 - QLD STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

WORDS BY: JESS WYSE ★ PHOTOS BY: EV LAGOON PHOTOGRAPHY

The 5th Annual Tropicana Classic was held at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre from the 3rd to the 13th of July. The Tropicana Classic is comprised of four shows over the two weeks of competition, the ARCHA Hackamore Classic, the Johnson's Natural Formula Versatility Ranch Show, a Western Performance Show and Barrel Race. The Tropicana Classic events again saw huge numbers of horses competing, with 400 horses and over 350 competitors competing over the four shows, with payout of over \$65,000 in prize money, plus products, buckles and vouchers.

This year we had 4 International judges and 3 Australian judges present, with competitors travelling from across QLD, NSW and VIC.

Australian Reined Cow Horse Association Hackamore Classic & Johnsons Natural Formula Versatility Ranch Show: Mr Morgan Lybert (USA), Mr David Young (NZ), and Mr Andrew Shields (AUS) judged the first week of competition. The first week of competition saw 100 horses and 90 competitors, competing in the cow horse, boxing and versatility ranch events. This year was also our 2nd year hosting a team roping invitational, and we had 16 teams competing over two go-rounds.

This year we teamed up with the Central Queensland Quarter Horse Association to host the Sun State Series, offering cash incentives and buckles to promote the cow horse sport in Queensland. Congratulations to Jordyn Bentley and Rhondhu Cracker Duck (Open Bridle Champions) and Patrick Hoppgood and Oaks Stylish Windstorm (Open Two-Handed Champions).

We offered a Super Ranch Horse Incentive for the highest scoring working ranch horse competing over the ranch cutting, ranch cow work and ranch roping. Congratulations to Stephen Kelly & Hell Reysn Spin for their success in these events.

Johnsons Natural Formula was the official feed supplier of the Cow Horse & Versatility Ranch Show. We would like to thank major sponsors Killara Park, Kim Thake Saddles & Tack, Mountain Horse Trading, All Type Welding Group, Signature Custom Floats, Essjay Performance, Hell Reysn Performance Horses, Rebel Rodeo and Johnsons Natural Formula.

'AA' Western Performance Show:

Mr Clint Fullerton (USA), Mr Darren Wright (USA) judged the performance section. The second week saw 130 horses and 132 competitors in the performance section, plus 75 horses and 60 competitors competing in the halter section. We also welcomed judges Gail Iskra (AUS) and Judith Rankin (AUS) to judge the Hack & Show Hunter sections.

In 2025, we paid tribute to two great performance horses, Denims the Menace and My Gorgeous George. Congratulations to the Youth Champions of the Denims the Menace Youth Incentive, sponsored by Kathy & Ron Thomas and the Thomas Family. Gracie Newman & GJC Huntin For An Angel (Senior Youth Trail Champion) and Bobbie Anderson & QXH Tigers Chocolatkiss (Junior Youth Trail Champion). And congratulations to Craig Rath & A Layzee Sommer, champions of the My Gorgeous George Memoriam Showmanship Spin Off. We also had the successful inclusion of Non-Pro performance classes to our program, which were well supported by our Non-Pro competitors.

Hygain was the official feed supplier of the Western Performance Show. We would like to thank major sponsors J.R. Stephens & Co Transport, Vertical Valley Equine, Bellden Park Quarter Horse Stud, Caboolture Central Motor Inn, Halter Breeders Group Australia, Reach For The Roan, NRD Mechanical, Real Deal Training Stables & Boutique Show Horses and Hygain.

Tropicana Classic Barrel Race:

The last day saw 95 horses and 75 competitors competing in the Tropicana Classic Barrel Race. This year the barrel race hosted its 2nd Futurity won by Tammy O'Neill and Morns Mafia and presented over \$7,000 in cash and prizes to the lucky winners. Johnsons Natural Formula was the official feed supplier of the Barrel Race.

We would like to thank product sponsors Horsemen's Trading Post, Mountain Horse Trading, Kim Thake Saddles & Tack, Stance Equitec, Equinade, The NRG Team, Poseidon Equine, CEN Equine Nutrition, Paradise Nutrients. We would like to extend a thank you to all our sponsors who have continued to support this show each year.

We would also like to thank the Tropicana Classic Committee, Show Team and volunteers for their dedication for running this amazing show.



CP Dark N Mysterious Q-98406 shown by Madeleine Kaye



Craig Rath & A Layzee Sommer Q-96327 - Champions of the My Gorgeous George Memorial Showmanship Spin off



BCR A Certain Superstar Q-101735 shown by Matt Freiberg



Glenlock Heaven Watch Q-96601 shown by Julie Beverage



Jade Spicer and Ohsoprocess A2-3828 in Ridden Hack



Jess Wyse and Cause Im A Cowboy Q-99416



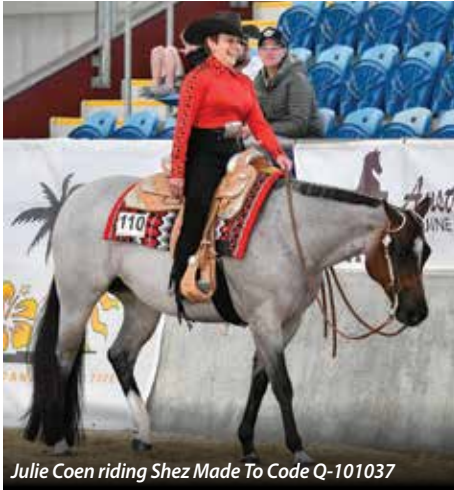
Chances Little Red Chic Q-100342 and Ashlea Cotter



Charley Lalor and Stetsin Q-81642 Youth Showmanship



Colton Newton, Garrett Newton and QXH Tigers Chocolatekiss Q-74131



Julie Coen riding Shez Made To Code Q-101037



Jordyn Bentley and Covid Cat Q-97712



Lazy Jetsetter Q-78747 shown by Macie Reed



LP Very Elegant Q-100430 shown by Emlyn Broad



My Layzee Liberty Q-99031 shown by Vicki McNamara



Neva Craig and Justice For Me Q-100190, winner of the 2&3 Year Old Halter Feature



Patrick Hopgood and Oaks Stylish Windstorm Q-72530



Petra Cooke riding FB Somejustlikitlazy Q-92414



Sam Daley showing Can You See Me Q-103970



Special N I Know It Q-1000604 shown by Sheree Myers



Stephen Kelly and Hell Reysn Spin Q-74756



Matthew Clifford and Steppin In Ashes Q-97869



Sue Parker and Ellaslie Woodrow Call Q-100398 In Heritage Ranch Trail



Supreme Halter Exhibit, It Started With A Kiss Q-96502, shown by Michelle Garrett for Taya Hills



TMD Out To Get Ya Q-100058 shown by Chloe Miller



YLS Sneakin Up On U Q-97967 shown by Yasmin Lee-Steere



Your Good Im Better A1-13403 shown by Maddie Allen



FEEDING FERTILITY

Of all the domesticated animals, horses have the lowest fertility rate. This may be because horses are selectively bred for their performance and conformation characteristics rather than their fertility.

© ARTICLE BY: DR JENNIFER STEWART BVSC BSC PHD EQUINE VETERINARIAN, CEO JENQUINE AND CONSULTANT NUTRITIONIST

Equine fertility is a tangled complex with a great variety of influencing environmental and management issues and the animals themselves.

What makes a fertile sperm? Like all cells, sperm need oxygen and, as a consequence, are faced with the oxygen paradox; oxygen is necessary for sustained life, but the waste products of using oxygen endanger the cell's survival. Both before and after ejaculation, sperm are exposed to the waste products of metabolism which limit the fertilization capacity of transported semen. These waste products, called reactive oxygen species or oxidants damage the delicate outer plasma membranes of the sperm (**Figure 1**), reducing sperm motility, longevity and viability. Supplementing the diet with antioxidants helps prevent damage to the sperm and improves fertility.

Like all cells, sperm use oxygen and, as a consequence, are faced with the oxygen paradox - oxygen is necessary for sustained life, but waste products from oxidative processes can endanger the cell's survival. Stallion semen is damaged by oxidative stress during cooling and transport. The principle antioxidants are omega 3, vitamin E, selenium, vitamin C, zinc, copper, and manganese. Apart from vitamin C, the body cannot manufacture these and they must be supplied in the diet. Omega-3 oils are high in fresh grass and flaxseed, however grains and vegetable oils, including rice bran oil, are too low in omega 3 and too high in omega-6. Omega-3 increases sperm motility and concentration and decreases the number of abnormal sperm. Abnormal sperm are incapable of fertilising the egg. Some abnormalities are shown in **Figure 2**.

Dietary supplementation with natural antioxidants helps prevent oxidative damage. *Lepidium meyenii* (Maca) - a traditional Andean crop enhances fertility due to its anti-oxidant activity. A 2018 study found that daily feeding of 20g maca powder for 60 days, improved motility and integrity and reduced oxidant damage to sperm. Vitamin E deficiency in stallions has been linked to the development of a higher number of abnormal sperm with poorer motility and supplementation improves both the total and progressive sperm motility of cooled semen. Vitamin A is also required for healthy spermatogenesis, protect against the development of abnormal sperm and assists motility. Zinc and selenium in combination with vitamin E enhance progressive motility, viability and morphology.

It takes about 60 days to make a sperm and to achieve the benefits of correct omega 3 intake, studies have found that the oil must be fed for at least 126 days.

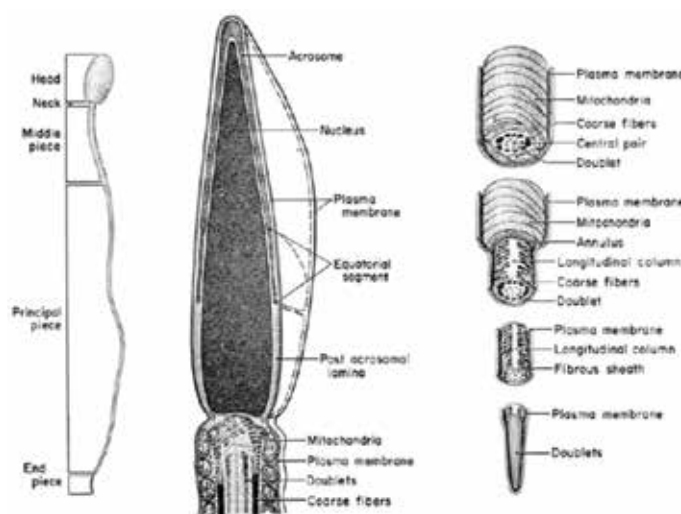


FIGURE 1, Diagram representing a stallion spermatozoon (Image obtained from Amann & Pickett, 1987)

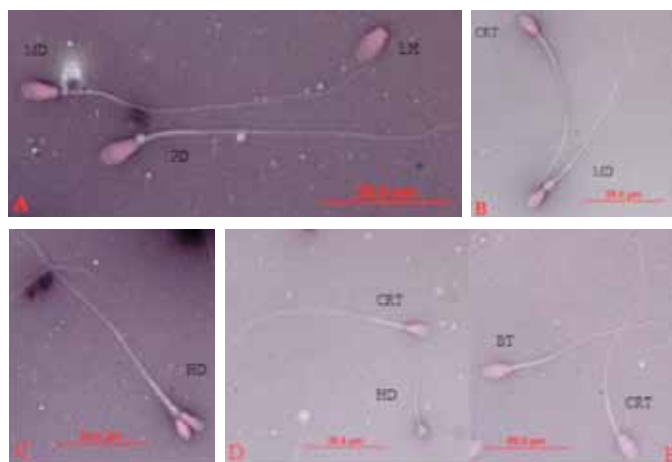


FIGURE 2, Some common sperm abnormalities: MD = mid-piece defect; LH = loose head; PD = Proximal Droplet; CRT = Curved Tail; HD = Head Defect; BT = Bent Tail

While no differences in sperm were found in trials feeding omega 3 oils for 84 days, after 126 days the sperm motility and velocity were higher. There was also a reduction in the number of abnormal sperm. Taking part in competitions has been shown to have no negative effect on semen quality - in fact, semen motility and total sperm count at most times during the breeding season were higher in stallions taking part in equestrian competitions than in stallions used for breeding only.

Just like mares, stallions exhibit seasonal variations in sexual behaviour, hormones and fertility. Sex hormones, semen volume, sperm count, motility and quality increase in spring/summer. Nutrition plays a critical role by supporting both general wellbeing and long-term health and supports the balance of hormones. There is a solid body of research investigating nutritional supplements to improve sperm quality and fertility. Key nutrients essential for healthy formation and function of equine sperm omega 3 fatty acids are incorporated into the plasma membrane (**Figure 1.**), enabling them to be flexible, compressible, deformable and elastic, as well as increasing viability and velocity. Linseed oil supplementation improves sperm acrosome integrity, while selenium and vitamin E given with omega 3 DHA increase total sperm count, longevity during storage and progressive motility. However if the diet omega 3 enrichment was done with whole foods, rather than with oils, no improvement was seen in sperm motility or morphology. Other nutritional supplements found to impact upon stallion sperm quality and function include L-carnitine which supports spermatogenesis and maturation, especially in sub-fertile stallions. Carnitine is formed from lysine and methionine, but this capacity is limited in some horses and dietary L-carnitine supplementation is beneficial.

Age has much less effect on stallions' than on mares' fertility. Although signs of aging may appear around 15 years of age, stallion fertility is not usually decreased until 20 – 25 years of age. Mare fertility decreases and the risk of pregnancy loss increases from 10 – 15 years of age.

As for other mammals, mares are born with a set number of primordial follicles, that varies between mares and the number of available follicles declines with aging. Ovarian activity is reduced after 15 years of age and is not observed anymore in around 17% of mares over 20 years – and by 25 years it is thought the mare has exhausted her oocyte stocks. Fertilization however isn't affected by age as the number of embryos collected via oviductal flushing at Day 2 post ovulation is similar between young, fertile mares and old, sub-fertile mares. And, when looking at embryo recipient mares, age does not affect initial pregnancy rates until 15 -18years but embryo loss is higher at day 50: 20.5% in mares over 10 years compared to 13.3% in younger mares. This is thought to be due to endometrial aging.

Fertilization and early embryo development take place in the oviducts, which have a higher incidence of fibrosis in older mares. After 5-6 days in the oviduct, the embryo induces its own movement down into the uterus. Cysts in the uterus - more common in older mares - could prevent embryo movements, fixation and implantation which are essential for the uterus to recognise and respond to the pregnancy. Uterine clearance of fluid is impaired in older mares and age-related lengthening of the vulva allows a larger entrance for bacteria. Endometritis is more common in old mares, partly due to poorer conformation and delayed uterine clearance of fluid and debris after foaling. However, the placenta is smaller and less efficient in maiden mares and the foals are smaller. Foals from young and maiden mares also have a more immature regulation of glucose – making it even more important that the mare's are not overfed and that the diet is low in starch and sugar.

Obesity and insulin dysregulation (ID) have been associated with subfertility in the mare. There has been a substantial increase in the prevalence of overweight and obese horses in recent years (45 - 50% now, up from 4.5% in 1998). Some of these mares, with a history of good sport performance, enter breeding programs with high expectations of embryo production or pregnancy. Without losing perspective of the reproductive problems associated with

ageing and obesity, it is very important to consider metabolic problems (e.g., equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) and pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID; i.e., equine Cushing's disease)) that may directly impact fertility. A large proportion of ID and obese mares continue to cycle over winter, have a longer period between ovulations and less ovulations. Once identified it's imperative that dietary errors are avoided. These mares should be managed with a low calorie (ie sugar and starch) diet, appropriate exercise and, if necessary, medication.

One often over-looked aspect is the necessity for specific essential amino-acids for the production of reproductive hormones. Regardless of the percent protein of the feed and the amount of protein in the diet, if essential amino acids are not present in the correct amount, hormone synthesis in the ovaries is impaired. The risk of amino acid deficiencies is much greater in mares fed teff, cereal and pasture hays and in those on bran/pollard/wheat/barley and corn-based manufactured feeds. Foal growth during lactation is heavily influenced by the amino acid quality of the mare's diet. The dietary protein intake of the lactating brood-mare should therefore contain sufficient high-quality protein to prevent depletion of her body reserves and consequently a loss in body mass – which is a risk factor for early embryonic loss. In addition, the growth of their foals can be impaired by up to 25%. Foals that are weaned with a low body mass are more likely to have periods of catch-up growth after weaning and are highly susceptible to epiphysitis and other developmental bone diseases.

Advancing maternal age as the single most significant factor to consider with the rate of fertility. Similar to stallions, the extent to which diet can affect mare fertility depends on the amino acid, anti-oxidant and mineral levels in the feed and the duration of feeding. Certainly improvements in reproductive efficiency have been demonstrated when a correctly balanced feed is fed for a minimum of 2 months before breeding. Grain-based feeds and diets have alter oocyte metabolism and functions in ways that are only just being understood, but that are detrimental to fertility 2.

Stress Based on studies in other species, effects of stress on the oestrous cycle in mares have been suggested. It is common practise to transport mares during the periovulatory period and owners often question whether transport shortly before and after ovulation, repeated gynaecological examination and exposure of the mares to a novel environment in the new stable may have negative effects on ovulation and conception. Although these events cause elevations in the stress hormone (cortisol) which last for several hours, no differences in duration of oestrus, time of ovulation, pregnancy rate or early embryonic loss between transported mares and non-transported mares. Stress may affect progesterone (a hormone necessary to maintain the pregnancy) levels in mares with marginal levels and your treating veterinarian is best-placed to discuss whether your mare requires progesterone.

Puberty can occur as soon 14-15 months of age and peak fertility in mares is from 4 to 6 years of age decreasing gradually to become almost zero at 25years of age. Many mares in show jumping, dressage and other disciplines commonly compete past 15 years of age - only then beginning their reproductive career. Thanks to ultrasonography, the newly available hormones and our increased knowledge of reproductive physiology, semen handling and pathology, foaling rates have improved over recent decades. In many breeds, the use of the artificial insemination has also been a major contribution.

~ 1999 AQHA HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES ~

ARTICLE BY: AQHA

Ian Francis

The Australian Quarter Horse Association honours Ian Francis with induction into the Hall of Fame for setting standards of excellence across a broad spectrum in the Australian Quarter Horse industry by extraordinary personal example.

Ian has trained and shown Quarter Horses to become multiple winners in almost every competitive field in the Western tradition, and has been influential in the acceptance of Quarter Horse breeding as desirable in the campdrafting arena.

IAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:-

- An NCHA Hall of Fame Inductee
- An NRHA Rider Legend
- A Mitavite Living Legend
- An International Reining Council World Cup Champion

HE HAS TRAINED:-

- 5 NRHA Reining Futurity Champions and 4 Reserve Champions
- 4 NRHA Reining Derby Champions and 4 Reserve Champions
- Equitana Asia-Pacific Masters Reining Champion
- 3 NCHA Cutting Futurity Champions and 2 Reserve Champions
- 1 NCHA Cutting Derby Champion
- 4 Reined Cow Horse Futurity Champions and 7 Reserve Champions
- 2 Cloncurry Stockman's Challenge Champions
- 3 Brisbane Royal Champion Station Hacks

The complete list of his successes with Quarter Horses is awe-inspiring.

Ian has always been an exemplary winner and philosophical loser – in either case, generous and helpful to fellow competitors. Top horsemen who were guided by and/or trained under him early in their careers and who went on to become rivals include Ken May, Mick Connolly, Raelene Higgins, Frank Greene, Melissa Rudd, Rick Tranter, Glen Wyse, Jedd Cameron, Paul Pownall, Dale Bennett, Shane Massingham, Gina Eddie, Damien Curr and John Arnold.

He has also helped encourage youth. His stables are always open and free to young people wanting to gain knowledge



and experience. Ian has presided over 'umpteen' free youth clinics, including annual half-day clinics for youth at the AQHA Nationals. He has been generous in supplying horses for youth events and has trained a NZ Youth Team. Young AQHA riders helped by Ian include Melissa Deans (now Rudd), Fleur Falconer, James Hazeldean, Lani Fender, Zoe Wharten, Marie Albury, Christine van den Bosch and Nerida Cole.

An AQHA, HSAA and NRHA Judge, his services in the arena have been considerable.

Ian's contribution to the Quarter Horse industry has also included an on-going series of clinics on Horsemanship, Halter, Western Pleasure, Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Campdrafting in all the Australian mainland States as well as in the United States, Fiji and New Zealand.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK BACK ON THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1999 HALL
OF FAME
INDUCTEE



He has promoted Quarter Horse excellence annually by the quality presentation of quality horses at the Rockhampton Quarter Horse sales, adding value to the breed by achieving very high top prices and consistently high averages. He is generally credited with lifting Rockhampton into its top place amongst Quarter Horse sales in Australia.

Apart from breeding excellent horses himself (The Equalizer, Hoodoo Voodoo – both out of the leading dam he also bred, Doc's Lyric) his advice to breeders, often sought, is always given with the benefit of the breed as his top criteria. His refusal to make recommendations to flatter or to further any other consideration has not always won him friends – but it has led to the production of horses which excel at the job for which they were bred.

Ian is a fine horseman and a great Australian, has proved you can start life with little and still make it to the top with hard work, high standards and a positive attitude.

Ian was born at Maryborough, Queensland on 28th June, 1945, the only son of a Maryborough carpenter, the late Snow Francis and his wife, Ella. He was educated at the local State Schools. He did not start riding until he was 11 years old when he got a part-time job helping out on a dairy farm. As a teenager he watched and worked with Barry Whitaker of Maryborough, whose style and feel for horses caught his imagination and made him aware that *"there was more to horsemanship than basic transportation"*.

Ian graduated to Rodeo where, for 12 years, he made a name for himself riding bareback, saddle broncs and bulls.

While working on various Central Queensland cattle properties he moved on to Campdrafting. When the beef industry was in recession, he took the opportunity to manage John and Jenny Kingston's Kolora Quarter Horse Stud. There his knowledge and appreciation of the

Quarter Horse breed was fine tuned. Ian credits much of his philosophy and attitude to life to John's influence at that time.

In 1980 he set up the Ian Francis Training Stables in a picturesque valley at Widgee outside Gympie, Queensland where, with Lexi Plath, he built and has maintained a reputation for presenting consistently well-trained horses in top condition for competition or for sale. Ian never fails to acknowledge the important role Lexi has played in the success of the outfit.

Among many others who have figured in his rise to fame, Ian lists four key men. Along with Barry Whitaker and John Kingston, there was Lee Reborse, a Nevadan who moved to Rockhampton (*"an excellent competitor specially in Reining and Working Cowhorse, a mild-mannered and very giving man"*) and top Australian horseman, John Stanton (*"his advice and attitudes to competition and life in general greatly affected my thinking"*).

Ian Francis has made some several trips to the USA and Canada. Highlights were representing Australia at World Cups in both countries and winning the Open division of the International Reining Council's World Cup in Toronto in 1992.

Among great horses trained and campaigned by Ian over the years have been King's Gaiety, King's Charge, Gold Astral, NBD King Poco Bar, Kings Gold, Dans Lady Cyliip, Kolora Lunar Lady, D-Bar Paint Your Wagon, Kolora Classic, Murrumbo Fiona, BS Mingo's Lucero, Vogue O'Lena, The Equalizer, Spindle, Doc's Desert Rose, Doc's Wild Orchid, Amaroo Rock n Return, Pillamindi Roc, Doc's Kylie Anne, Riverholme Royal Oak, Doc's Gold Dude, Nonda Tall Poppy, Donrice Conchite, Yarrango Reggae, Nonda Nightbird, Havenville Crackshot, Jaylo Bushman, Whisp O'Lena and Star Carousel.

DIRECTOR REPORTS - 2025/2026

RICKY GLEN

Portfolio: Hall of Fame Portfolio Report

Dear Members,

This year will see another group of outstanding people and horses inducted into the Hall of Fame which is the greatest honour a person or a horse can receive from the AQHA.

These individuals have helped shape the AQHA into one of the leading breed societies in Australia today and in doing this, we ensure our past is documented for the future to read about.

We also have 2 Medal of Excellence awards to be presented recognising horses who have excelled in their particular field or any other phase of equestrian activity and in doing so has promoted the Australian Quarter Horse in these areas.

I cannot stress how important our history is for the AQHA and we must look back to ensure horses and riders are acknowledged. The Hall of Fame also recognises our present horses achieving and promoting our breed in their respective disciplines and or promoting our breed outside of our industry as well.

Please go to the website and look at our past inductees and I welcome you to celebrate these great horses and people at our awards night in Melbourne this year.

With thanks
Ricky Glen
Hall of Fame Chairperson

KIM JOHNSON

Portfolio: International Report

International 2024 / 2025

Firstly, I would like to thank all of my fellow directors for their hard work. Gemma and the office staff, its been very busy. I thank all of you for your support of me in my position on the board. We have introduced more awards and classes for the international events at the Nationals.

The International meeting was held at the 2025 Nationals. The AQHA are looking for more input from you our members. I have taken on board your feedback and will try and introduce more awards for 2026.

Internationally we have had 1 new International Executive Officer in 2025-2026 year. We have done our business plan and have attended virtual meetings with AmQHA for better communications.

There has been a new appointment for the Director of Competitions,

Scott Neuman. For all your AmQHA information please see AmQHA website www.aqha.com

We have recently introduced a new application for registration form that has been approved by AmQHA to make it easier for you the breeders to dual register your foals with AmQHA with the one form.

AmQHA is the largest equine breeding registry in the world 130 countries with approximately 31,000 members and 440,000 registered Quarter Horses, they are keen to develop more communications with all international affiliates.

All areas of AQHA we have had an outstanding year. I look forward to 2025-26. Thank you to you the members for your support throughout 2024-2025.

Kim Johnson - International Portfolio
Cattle and Time Committee; Youth Committee; Amateur Committee;
AmQHA Director International Committee

KIM JOHNSON

Portfolio: Studbook Report

Hey Members just an update on your stud book committee. We are continuing to meet before every board meeting so we can address any members needs and are looking to the future.

We currently have an Amnesty on FM registrations please contact the office if you need further information.

The Committee are looking into developing new frozen embryo/oocyte rules so we can have them in place to safe guard the integrity of our breed and support our breeders and members. If you the members would like to have input please email me with your thoughts.

There is a new genetic disorder on the horizon EQUINE JUVENILE SPINOCEREBELLA ATAXIA [EJSCA].

We have no tests available in Australia at present for this disorder yet but we will keep you informed as soon as it becomes available. If you need more information you can go the UC DAVIS website, <https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/> this site can be very informative on all Genetic Disorders.

Your committee would welcome any thoughts or ideas that you think could benefit AQHA.

We are working on going over the studbook rules, so we can stay relevant for the future, I would like to thank our office staff and Vanessa for their hard work.

AQHA PROUD
Kim Johnson
0427 667 886 please call if you want to talk

TRISH WETTENHALL

Portfolio: Show and Performance Report

The AQHA board agreed to move forward and adopt the AMQHA rule as of 2026. The S&P sub committee with input from various judges and interested parties are working on suitable changes and additions. Including classes AMQHA don't offer their members.

We feel in the best interests of members and competitors. There is a lot of reading and comparing involved to make sure it a smooth transition adopting the rule book. We will also be retraining our judges to make show we all know the differences.

We will only be adopting the SHW rules we will keep our stud book rules and possible changes to violations.

The committee welcome any input from any member regarding these changes.

I look forward to using the AMQHA rule book

Trish Wettenhall
Show & Performance Chairperson

DIRECTOR REPORTS - 2025/2026

JOANNE GREGORY

Portfolio: Judges Report

The introduction of the Limited Judges ticket has been a great success so far with around 30 members showing their interest in applying for this judges ticket and already completed the first on line training phase.

To date we have had two members pass and are happy to congratulate Katrina Lewis and Carla Cox as new Limited Judges. The Limited Judging ticket is a new initiative where applicants can complete their judges test-ing over an extended amount of time at their own pace.

Applicants have to attend an online training session where members of the judging sub- committee provide valuable information on how to judge the classes as well as judges re-sponsibilities. Once the online

training has been completed applicants contact Leah at the AQHA office and she will upload the theory and video tests onto the AQHA iCompete portal for the applicant to complete in their own time.

Once the applicant is successful and passed by the board they are granted their Limited judges ticket and are able to judge Halter, HUS, Western Pleasure, Hunter In Hand and Showmanship. Then if the Limited judge wishes to upgrade to an associate judge they can complete the testing to add on the other classes at their own pace.

If any members wish to gain more information on the Limited Judges system please feel free to contact Leah at the AQHA office.

Joanne Gregory
AQHA Director – Judges Chairperson

LORELEI PAYNE

Portfolio: Traditional Report

It has been a hard year with weather conditions trying to organise clinics for educational pur-poses. Olivia Palfreyman and myself had clinics prepared for both NSW and QLD but due to unforeseen circumstances these have had to be cancelled.

Western Dressage was brought back again to the AQHA Nationals was well supported with Amateur, Youth and Open classes much to my pleasure.

As I have been judging up in North Qld and I have noticed a lot of Qhorses in the show hunter classes with youth riding so I will be reaching out to the show world to promote our wonderful Quarter Horse Performance World.

Regards
Lorelei Payne
AQHA Professional Horsemen
Traditional Chairperson

LIZ KEATING

Portfolio: Youth Report

I am pleased to present my end of year report to you. The Youth Portfolio has had another productive year. Some of our achievements are as follows:

1. Free Youth Memberships for the 2025/2026 year.
To be able to access every child, we have offered a free youth membership for this coming year. The membership will come without the magazine option, but you will be able to view the online magazine through the AQHA website.

We are hoping this will encourage new youth members to join to enjoy our beloved Quarter Horses, be up to date with all things Youth, be eligible to attend our free youth clinics offered in each State.

2. Free Youth Clinics.
We are offering FREE one day clinics assisted by our AQHA Professional Horsemen in each State, offering 2 clinics per State. We have already had a clinic in Western Australia with AQHA Pro Horsemen Karen Nicoletto, which was very well received, and a clinic with AQHA Pro Horsemen Dave Caleo in NSW, which from all accounts was great fun. The next clinic will be at Glenburn Victoria with AQHA Professional Horsemen Kate Elliot on the 18th October. AQHA Pro Horsemen Lorelei Payne will be holding a one day clinic in QLD in October, date and time TBA. If you are interested in attending any of these please call the office and put your name down. Information on any other upcoming clinics in your State will be advertised on the AQHA Facebook page and website. If you are interested in being a part of a clinic, or have any question about a clinic near you, please contact either myself or the AQHA office for information, and keep a watch out on the socials.

3. Our major fundraising Youth Online Stallion Auction was an incredible success.
With a grand total of \$13,950.00 being raised to going towards educational opportunities, free clinics and memberships for our AQHA youth. Thanks goes to our Stallions and their owner's! Thank you for supporting our future.
Black N Dynamic – Triandibo Quarter Horse Stud and Trish Wettenthal
CSR Dual Glo – Marshall and Lezlie Wier

Reach for the Roan – Rosemary Webb
Desire A Little Rex – Kim & Fred Johnson & Cuttabar Quarter Horse Stud
Ozzy Cat – Sean O'Hanlon – Crazy Train Partnership
Heavy Metal – Jodie Mearns & Chris Ware
KQR Potentially Sizzlin – Jason Looby & Chris Davie
at Kenlock QH Stud
Tindarre Cowboystouchdown – Tiffany Moore
Precedence – Lin and Taylas Rabig
Spots Hottish – Buffalo Ranch

This is the second year in a row we have offered incredible stallions for our online auction, seeing this auction growing momentum is exciting for our youth. Stay tuned for next year's offerings, and if you have a stallion you would like to donate to our fundraising cause, please contact myself or the office.

4. Q 25 National Show –
Our Youth AGM is held at the National show every year. I would like to congratulate the Youth Division on your appointment's and hope to hear from you with your ideas, as this is your division.
This year the welcome BBQ auction was combined with the Youth and Amateur Trans Tasman teams. Over \$7000 was raised and divided equally with team members to go towards their fundraising goals. Thanks goes to everyone who supported the teams by donating for auction and also bidding on items.

5. Trans Tasman – 2025 The Trans Tasman is an international event seeing Australian and New Zealand youth and Amateur's compete for their country. A week long event with educational clinics every day, finishing off with a friendly but fierce competition at the end of the week, this event will be held from the 29th September to the 4th October at Tatura Park Victoria. We invite the you all to come and barrack for our Aussies. More information can be found on the Trans Tasman Facebook page, where you can find regular updates.

I would like to thank my sub committee, Kim Johnson and Dave Caleo, Gemma Clarke our AQHA General Manager, Ricky Glen our AQHA President and the BOD for your ongoing help and support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas.

Liz Keating
Youth Chairperson

DIRECTOR REPORTS - 2025/2026

RACHEL TURNER**Portfolio: Amateur Report**

We have been receiving positive feedback from our free state amateur clinics and encourage everyone to support them to ensure we can continue to run them for years to come. The 2025 Trans Tasman Challenge is being held at Tatura Park Sept 29-Oct 4 where our youth

and amateur teams will take on New Zealand. Spectators are welcome and we encourage people to get involved, come along and watch the clinics. It's a great chance to get insight into the challenge if it is something you aspire to in the future.

Rachel Turner
Amateur Chairperson

DAVE CALEO**Portfolio: Pro Horsemen Report**

Hello everyone,

First, I would like to say what a privilege it is to serve on the AQHA Board of Directors. This dedicated group is passionate about the Association and the Australian Quarter Horse, and I'm proud to work alongside them.

This year was my first as Portfolio Holder for the Pro Horsemen Division, and I'm pleased to share some exciting developments. In 2024, we introduced a \$500 High Point Pro Horseman Award at each of the four major shows – Summer Sizzler, AQHA Nationals, NPHA, and Tropicana – which will continue into the coming show season.

Additionally, we have added a \$200 award for the Highest Placed Pro Horseman at our state shows, further recognising and rewarding excellence within our professional ranks.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting initiatives planned for the upcoming season and will keep everyone updated as these roll out.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Pro Horsemen Division, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at caleodave@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Dave Caleo
Pro Horsemen Chairperson

KANE SKOPP**Portfolio: Marketing Report**

Marketing Momentum Continues

The Marketing Sub-Committee has been busy laying the groundwork for a stronger AQHA presence across events, socials and beyond.

A fresh updated branding kit to make sure everything from social media to signage looks and feels like AQHA is in the works along with a major upgrade of our trade stall.

We're also getting stuck into content creation, including director interviews and are in the planning stages for an AQHA members YouTube channel and some podcast-style content filmed at major events.

Our popular AQHA Incentive Program continues to shine, and we're working on a new campaign, "100,000 Reasons to Join AQHA", to help promote the breed and boost membership, highlighting the over

\$100,000 in incentive funds being paid out in 2026! Associations receiving incentive support will also get posters, social kits, announcer briefs, and more to help spread the word.

Looking ahead to our next National Show, we're reviewing what worked well and what can be improved. Exploring live streaming options, refreshing merchandise, and finding ways to make the event even more attractive to sponsors and competitors with more media coverage than ever before. The team is also working closely with other committees to make sure everyone is on the same page as this new membership year kicks off. There's plenty happening behind the scenes to support our trainers, affiliates and growing Quarter Horse community. We're excited to keep the momentum going and continue building on the incredible growth we've seen across our expanding network.

I would like to thank my sub-committee Liz Keating and Leah Michelle for their help, support and enthusiasm.

Kane Skopp
Marketing Chairperson

RICKY GLEN**Portfolio: Cattle and Timed Events Report**

Dear Members,

The cattle industry is thriving in Australia so that means related horse events linked to this are also getting bigger and bigger and with the incentives that the AQHA is putting into these events has seen an increase in memberships and registrations as well.

The annual Nutrien Horse Sale held in Tamworth in February will be bigger this year with the introduction of open aged horses selling which has seen the increase of the value of our competition horses reach an all-time high.

The cutting and campdraft events have some of the greatest number of competitors and its usual to see 300 entries in the campdrafts and at this year's NCHA Futurity, they have over 120 three year old cutting horses compete for a winners cheque of \$100,000.00 and the same was paid to the winner of the the Willinga Gold Cup campdraft winner.

The roping industry has some great new events coming up with the introduction of aged events. This year we saw a 3 year old roping

prospect sell in the USA for \$1.6 million dollars and there has been a few Australian Quarter Horses being exported to the USA to rope over there. I forecast with the way our dollar is compared to theirs, the Americans are looking at our horse seriously to take back over there to compete on.

The Barrel horse industry here is the same, they are competing for great prizemoney and the introduction of futurity and other aged events is going to see tremendous growth with these horses as well. Like the rope horses, our horses are going back to the USA and winning big which is a huge plus for the Quarter Horse industry here in Australia.

And don't forget the Challenge and other cattle and time related events held all over Australia which sees our Quarter Horse winning many of these winners' cheques.

The future looks bright for our horses competing within this portfolio and I thank my subcommittee for the help they give me during the year.

With Thanks
Ricky Glen
Cattle and Timed Events Chairperson

AUSTRALIAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

ABN: 41 000 964 643

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION -AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,818,451	2,823,405
Trade and other receivables	5	1,522	2,739
Inventories	6	7,555	15,298
Prepayments		7,220	25,772
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,834,748	2,867,214
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	2,163,864	2,228,685
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,163,864	2,228,685
TOTAL ASSETS		4,998,612	5,095,899
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	82,945	163,237
Employee benefits	9	46,728	57,317
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		129,673	220,554
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long service leave provision	9	55,571	50,109
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		55,571	50,109
TOTAL LIABILITIES		185,244	270,663
NET ASSETS		4,813,368	4,825,236
EQUITY			
Land and Buildings revaluation reserve		1,187,649	1,187,648
Accumulated surpluses		3,625,719	3,637,588
TOTAL EQUITY		4,813,368	4,825,236

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue from contracts with customers	2	2,200,834	2,074,225
Other revenue	2	121,245	120,641
Total revenue		2,322,079	2,194,866
Administration		(455,226)	(363,760)
Board		(64,749)	(45,688)
Depreciation		(64,821)	(71,916)
Employee costs		(777,994)	(754,314)
Memberships		(25,305)	-
Other AQHA Divisions & Affiliates		(210,913)	(228,965)
Registry		(268,394)	(244,754)
Shows & Events		(466,545)	(474,520)
Loss on disposal of assets		-	(12)
Surplus for the year		(11,868)	10,937
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(11,868)	10,937

	NSW & ACT		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Central West Working Horse Assoc. Inc	Mark Garland	Jenny Tracy
	Hastings Performance & Quarter Horse Club	Aleks Jelaca	Natalie Piper
	Hunter Coast QHA	Michelle Southgate	Kirstin Dunncliff
	Mid Western Working Horse Assoc.	Daniel Walker	Kylie McDonnell
	Narrabri Performance Horse Assoc.	David Melbourne	Ainsley Cauldfield
	National Pleasure Horse Assoc.	Nicole Wilson	Melannie Halligan
	New England Quarter Horse Assoc.	Erin McCarthy	Debbie Baker
	North West Team Penning Quarter Horse Assoc.	John Marshall	Erica Berry
	Sydney Quarter Horse Assoc.	Keryle Devlin	Sarah Ringrose
	Upper Hunter Team Penning Assoc.	Kristy Banister	Kathryn Marquet
	Uki Sporting Horse Assoc.	Jennifer McDonald	Shauna Purser
	NORTHERN TERRITORY		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Darwin Quarter Horse Assoc.	Kaicey Maccioni	Tania Blakeney
	QUEENSLAND		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Beaudesert Cutting & WP Club	Troy Welsh	Lyn Anderson
	Burpengary Western performance Club	Rayleen Williams	Janice Turner
	Gatton Quarter Horse & PA	Graham Voss	
	Sunshine Coast Quarter Horse Performance Club	Lynda Hicks	Pieta Dunne
	Maryborough & Dist WP Club	Lisa Carter	Cheri Peters
	North Queensland Quarter Horse Assoc.	Teresa Russo	Julie Sain
	Sarina Western Performance & Quarter Horse Club	Kevin Grima	Jessica Vella
	Silver Spurs WP & Quarter Horse Club	Jason Russell	Samantha Morgan
	Southside Western Performance Club	Jim Fleming	Lisa Fleming
	Top End Western Horse Club	Brett Coad	Renee Biggs
	Tropicana Quarter Horse & Performance Club	Glenn Wyse	Annette Page
	Wide Bay Burnett Cutting Club	Dave Golding	Julie Moore
	SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Circle C Western Riding Club	Mathew Noble	Sonya Couzner
	Southern Star Western Performance Club	Lisa Halling	Janet Barnsley
	Quarter Horse Association SA	Rebecca Fatchen	Jade Stock
	TASMANIA		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Northern Tasmanian Quarter Horse Assoc	Cynthia Kettle	Annalise Kettle
	Southern Tasmanian Quarter Horse Assoc.	Lynette Weavell	Allison Morgan
	VICTORIA		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Ballarat & Districts Quarter Horse Assoc.	Karen O'Keefe	Fiona Nelson
	Big Valley Quarter Horse Assoc.	Shirley Davidson	Glenna Finnie
	Border Western Horse Group	Shaz Kiernan	Karen Timmis
	Central Victorian Ranch Horse Assoc.	Kerry Cooper	Genny Prior
	East Gippsland Performance Quarter Horse Assoc.	Kevin Giblin	Fiona Forsyth
	Goulburn Valley Quarter Horse & Western Riding Club	Kyle Mobberley	Tracey Atkins
	Murray River Western Performance Club	Wayne Baker	Julie Webster
	Northern Victoria Quarter Horse Assoc.	Carlie Turnbull	Haley Smith
	Peninsula Quarter Horse Assoc.	Bree Carrigg	Chris Grundy
	Pioneer Country Quarter Horse Assoc.	Mark Haeusler	Vicki Aiken
	Plenty Valley QHA	Pene Mcswain	Donna Coe
	West Gippsland Quarter Horse Assoc.	Gladys Carlill	Wayne Powell
	Western Districts Quarter Horse Assoc.	Wes Roderick	Karli Roderick
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Chapman Valley Western Riding & Quarter Horse Club	Peter Clancy	Kristy Blanke
	West Australian Quarter Horse Assoc.	Jenny Barnes	Tracy Allen
	NEW CALEDONIA		
	AFFILIATE NAME	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
	Assoc. Caledonienne Equitation Western	Karl Willemot	Marie Vivancos

MAILING ADDRESS	PH NUMBER	EMAIL
59L North Minore Road, DUBBO NSW 2830	0438 845 736	secretary.cwwha@bigpond.com; jennytracy1@bigpond.com
PO Box 89, KENDALL NSW 2429	0459 126 627	hpaqhc@gmail.com
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PO Box 95, GULGONG NSW 2852	0408 412 946	secretary.mwwwa@bigpond.com
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1484 Wisemans Ferry Rd, MAROOTA NSW 2756	0434 728 522	Mailsqha@gmail.com; tonya.turner@bigpond.com
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PO Box 619, GATTON QLD 4343	0482 906 926	contact.gqha@gmail.com
142 Crosby Hill Rd, TANAWHA QLD 4556	0424 929 924	club@scqhpc.com.au
PO Box 5176, TORQUAY, QLD, 4655	0447 976 844	mdwpc.president1@gmail.com
PO Box 640, INNISFAIL QLD 4860	0438 642 656	nqquarterhorseassoc@gmail.com; jasain@bigpond.com
64 Kippen Street, MACKAY QLD 4740	0457 064 463	SWPQHC@outlook.com; 77grima@gmail.com
PO Box 101, GLADSTONE QLD 4680	0448 922 369	sswpclubinc@gmail.com
1-19 William Street, WATERFORD WEST, QLD 4133	0435 407 887	jl_fleming@outlook.com; showsswpc@hotmail.com
PO Box 699, MAREEBA QLD 4880	0488 159 516	topendwesternhorseclub@gmail.com; buckarooeducational@gmail.com
50 Bakers Flat Road, BEACHMERE QLD 4510	0419 213 912	annettepage59@bigpond.com; wyseequine@bigpond.com
PO Box 3187, MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650	0428 286 968	julesnrob@bigpond.com; wbbcc@hotmail.com.au
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7 McCord Road, TWO WELLS SA 5501	0421 758 249	eqhstud@bigpond.com
850 Brookman Rd, KUITPO SA 5201	0412 460 640	pbarnsley@bigpond.com
PO Box 941, TWO WELLS SA 5501	0427 378 008	hell4leather@bigpond.com
MAILING ADDRESS	PH NUMBER	EMAIL
PO Box 41, SCOTTS DALE TAS 7260	0477 222 542	cynthiakettle@bigpond.com; Northerntasmanianqh@outlook.com
10 Link Road, NEW NORFOLK TAS 7140	0449 298 834	southerntasqh@gmail.com
MAILING ADDRESS	PH NUMBER	EMAIL
2720 Colac Rd, CRESSY, VIC, 3322	0409 797 134	tivosass11@gmail.com; thebdqha@gmail.com
Benalla West Post Office, BENALLA WEST VIC 3672	0408 339 981	glennafinnie@gmail.com
PO Box CP810, MILDURA VIC 3501	0429 121 314	muster04@bigpond.net.au; bwhginc694@gmail.com
PO Box 149, SEYMOUR VIC 3661	0455 533 788	cooper.kerry@gmail.com; genprior@hotmail.com
PO Box 950, LAKES ENTRANCE VIC 3909	0428 446 562	cherub.11@hotmail.com
115 Crawford Rd, BYRNESIDE VIC 3617	0418 354 917	gvquarterhorseclub@gmail.com
PO Box 865, KYABRAM VIC 3620	0410 316 722	futuroqh@gmail.com; juliewebby@hotmail.com
4 Specimen Street, WEDDERBURN, VIC 3517	0420 801 889	rn711@gmail.com
98 Guelph St, SOMERVILLE VIC 3912	0417 106 093	brecarrigg@outlook.com
PO Box 1302, SWAN HILL VIC 3585	0438 331 591	aikensv@bigpond.com
560 Calder HWY, DIGGERS REST VIC 3427	0400 485 369	pvhqashows@gmail.com
PO Box 120, GARFIELD VIC 3814	0419 392 585	wayne@sensorsafe.com.au
PO Box 26, LITTLE RIVVER VIC 3211	0417 391 936	shows.wdqha@gmail.com; karli@roderick.com.au
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PO Box 2185, GERALDTON WA 6531	0409 173 553	chapmanvalleywrandqhclub@gmail.com
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MAILING ADDRESS	PH NUMBER	EMAIL
BP2014, PAITA, 98890, NEW CALEDONIA		acewnc@gmail.com



AQHA JUDGES LIST 2025/2026

NEW SOUTH WALES

Gregory	Joanne	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 1	GLENMORE PARK	2745	0437 703 353		jo-greg@bigpond.net.au
Howes (Watson)	Debra	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	QUIRINDI	2343	0428 736 478		debbiewatson21@hotmail.com
Kay	Fiona	Associate	CANYONLEIGH	2577	0407 905 959		kayandrose@hotmail.com
Webb	Penelope	Versatility Ranch Level 1	BECTIVE	2340	0404 097 318		penwebb63@gmail.com

QUEENSLAND

Bartlett	Leanne	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	CANUNGRA	4275	0412 505 253	07 5543 5819	mark.bartlett1@bigpond.com
Bellden	Peter	Accredited/Trail	PEACHESTER	4519	0418 731 015	07 5494 9800	pbellden@bigpond.com
Cameron	Debby	Accredited	DAKABIN	4503	0498 368 351		debby.cameron1@hotmail.com
Davison	Ken	Versatility Ranch Level 1	NORTH DEEP CREEK	4570	0419 723 391		kndshowhorses@gmail.com
Davison	Nicole	Versatility Ranch Level 1	NORTH DEEP CREEK	4570	0419 723 391		kndshowhorses@gmail.com
Fyfe	Rosena	Associate/Trail	MORAYFIELD	4506	0428 766 062		rjf265@gmail.com
Hall	Lee Ann	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	KILKIVAN	4600	0412 136 096	07 5484 1047	Jeffrey.Hall@bigpond.com
Hall	Jeffrey	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	KILKIVAN	4600	0437 044 116	07 5484 1047	hallmarkfarm@bigpond.com
Massingham	Shane	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	HELIDON	4344	0407 083 579	07 3408 7809	aqhajudge@gmail.com
Payne	Lorelei	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	MALENY	4552	0412 277 712	07 5494 2354	loreleipayne@gmail.com
Shield	Andrew	Accredited/Trail/Versatility Ranch Level 2	BURPENGARY	4505	0419 734 273	07 3888 2038	andrewbshield@outlook.com
Sim	Robert	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	KHOLO	4306	0400 144 035		
Sommer	Shirley	Associate/Trail	MALENY	4552	0428 943 118	07 5494 3118	shirleysommer1023@gmail.com
Thake	Kim	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	WIDGEE	4570	0410 685 678	07 5543 2330	kimthake@hotmail.com
Thake	Steve	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	WOOLOOGA	4570	0408 186 020	07 5484 7150	alazys1@bigpond.com
Vallette-Morlet	Justine	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	GOLD COAST	4215	0452 484 797		jvem706@gmail.com
Wyse	Glenn	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	BEACHMERE	4510	0419 213 912	03 5854 6564	wyseequine@bigpond.com

VICTORIA

Kemp	Leteisha	Associate	SEYMOUR	3660	0407 991 816		leteisha@inet.net.au
Barry	Conny	Accredited	KATANDRA	3634	0409 956 104	03 5828 3439	northboundappys@hotmail.com
Elliott	Carol	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	NANDALY	3533	0419 911 273	03 5078 1273	laketyrell@gmail.com
Elliott	Kate	Accredited/Versatility Ranch Level 2	GLENBURN	3717	0418 334582	03 5797 8446	breakodayqh@gmail.com
Gorski	Leonie	Trail	WHITTLESEA	3757	0409 903 133		leonter08@gmail.com
McFadden	Kerry	Versatility Ranch Level 1	BADDAGINNIE	3670	0413 304 990		cuttinghorsesaust@gmail.com
O'Keefe	Beverley	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	SKIPTON	3361	0407 041 886		boktraining@yahoo.com.au
O'Keefe	Karen	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	ROKEWOOD	3330	0409 559 482		landcarekaren@gmail.com
Rath	Craig	Accredited	SOUTH YARRA	3141	0427 059 863		Craig.Rath@outlook.com
Smith	Robyn	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	KYABRAM	3620	0434 636 734		i_luv2lope@bigpond.com
Wettenhall	Patricia	Associate	SEVILLE EAST	3139	0418 567 180		triandibo@bigpond.com

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nicoletto	Karen	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	BASSENDEN	6054	0412 173 466	08 9279 1734	Karen.nicoletto.show.horses@gmail.com
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NEW CALEDONIA

Lasbleiz-Pialla	Celine	Associate/Versatility Ranch Level 2	LA FOA	98880	0011687 835 413		celinelasbleiz@hotmail.com
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AQHA PRO HORSEMAN 2025/2026

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