

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014



HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA



Kylie Rasmussen

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The annual report would not have the same impact without the photos. HRA thanks all of the contributors who have supplied photos for this report.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Rob Gorman



The 2013-2014 season was an interesting one with plenty happening both on and off the track.

Integrity remained a critical focus of all administrators, there was some success with our industry's lobbying of federal and state politicians, and there was some outstanding racing.

Benefits continued to accrue from actions taken following the Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel Report in 2011, with more than \$800,000 being provided for various breeding incentive schemes around the nation during the season. Representations with federal officials resulted in major changes to rules pertaining to the importation of fillies and broodmares and HRA also signed a formal breeding agreement with France.

Considerable time was spent assisting a group promoting a fledgling harness racing enterprise in China and 42 horses have been sold to them to be part of this venture.

There also were some significant animal welfare initiatives in the past year and it is pleasing to note that the Standardbreds Unharnessed program continued to provide fresh opportunities for retired racehorses.

Many participants have welcomed further enhancements to HRA's performance and breeding reports, part of an ongoing upgrade of the services provided to the industry.

The \$25-million redevelopment of Tabcorp Park Menangle was officially opened during the year and infrastructure upgrades commenced at other venues around Australia. There also were some significant changes in administrative ranks among HRA's Members.

***Most importantly, Members continued to meet the challenges provided by a demanding market and produced high quality racing for fans and punters alike.***

## RACING HIGHLIGHTS – HORSES

Some veteran stars dimmed and new heroes emerged in another stellar season on Australian racetracks.

The brilliant Tasmanian pacer Beautide was an overwhelming choice as Australian Harness Horse of the Year after a magnificent 2013-2014 season which netted 12 wins and a 2nd and \$1,119,844 in prizemoney from 14 starts. Beautide, owned by Tasmanian harness racing stalwarts, the Rattray family, and trained and driven by James Rattray, developed a strong following with his sterling performances in feature races.

The Bettors Delight gelding won two grand circuit races at Tabcorp Park Menangle, the TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion Grand Final and the SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile, as well as the Tabcorp Len Smith Mile at the same venue.

Beautide was also named Australian Pacer of the Year and Aged Horse/Gelding Pacer of the Year and finished a close second in the Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit series, behind the New Zealand pacer Christen Me.

Another New Zealander, Stent, took out the APG Trotting Master series following victory in the Seelite Windows and Doors Australian Trotting Grand Prix at Melton and placings in three other events.

It was pleasing to see Australian Pacing Gold come on board as sponsor of the two elite pacing and trotting series on the Australasian calendar and the connections of both Christen Me and Stent get a \$20,000 bonus to be spent at the APG sales.

Nicole Molander's outstanding trotter Keystone Del was a close second in the Master series after winning the Glenferrie Farm Challenge at Menangle for the second year running and dominating the Pryde's Easifeed Great Southern Star at Melton.

Keystone Del, driven by Blake Fitzpatrick, had eleven wins – seven of them in Group One races – and four placings from 17 starts during the season and amassed prizemoney of \$437,689. He was a deserved Australian Trotter of the Year.

Three time Inter Dominion winner Im Themightyquinn was missing from the Grand Circuit action during the season because of injury but still managed seven wins and three placings and prizemoney of \$196,740 from ten starts in lesser races.

Another champion, Smoken Up, battled on during the season with seven wins and 11 placings from 25 starts, and prizemoney of \$240,448 but it was obvious he was in the twilight of his wonderful career. Trainer/driver Lance Justice gave "Trigger" a farewell tour towards the end of the season and he had his final start at Melton just after the 2015 season commenced. Now a 12 year old, he finished a gallant 4th.

Smoken Up, an extremely popular horse, finished his remarkable career with 74 wins and 54 placings from 153 starts and prizemoney of \$3,607,985.



## RACING HIGHLIGHTS – TRAINERS/DRIVERS

July 15 2014 was a night to remember for Victorian trainer and driver Shane Cramp when he shattered a world record by training all eight winners on the program at Mildura, his home track. His stunning achievement was even more remarkable as he drove three of the eight winners and trained a trifecta and three quinellas.

Furthermore, counting the meetings immediately prior to, and after, the July 15 fixture Shane actually trained 13 straight winners.

Shane Cramp's achievement gained plenty of attention in the mainstream media and set social media alight. There seems little doubt his world record will stand for many years to come.

Another driving milestone was achieved by the outstanding Western Australian reinsman Gary Hall (Junior) late in the season when he took his career tally of winners past the 2,000 mark.

The remarkable Chris Alford of Victoria was Australia's leading driver – for the ninth time - with 298 wins in the season. In taking the J.D. Watts Award he also drove 403 placegetters and won more than \$2.8-million in prizemoney.

Chris Alford had an outstanding strike rate, winning with one in five drives and being placed every second drive.

Amanda Turnbull, who divided her time between New South Wales and Victoria, was second in the national standings with 220 winners and 284 placegetters. Amanda also had a stunning strike rate, driving a winner every fourth race and a placegetter every 1.75 drives.

The J.D. Watts Award for leading trainer went to Grant Dixon of Queensland for the third consecutive year. Grant prepared 260 winners and 459 placegetters throughout Australia during the season and, for good measure, also drove 189 winners.

Steve Turnbull of NSW and Gary Hall (Senior) of WA were second and third on the national table with 217 and 214 winners respectively. Interestingly, 5 of the top 10 trainers in Australia were women.

## RACING HIGHLIGHTS – BREEDING

There were a host of familiar names in the Globe Derby Awards for breeding excellence, sponsored by IRT.

Bettors Delight was Leading Sire by Stake money for the third time, with his progeny winning 905 races and \$9,215,974. Leading Juvenile Sire by Stake money was Art Major, for the sixth time, the 300 wins by his progeny earning \$3,731,950.

Art Major was also the Leading Sire of Winners (3rd time) while Holmes Hanover was the Leading Broodmare Sire by both Stake money (6th time) and Winners (8th time).

Sundon was the Leading Sire of Trotters by Stake money for the 12th time, his progeny winning 154 races for \$1,283,366.

Broodmare of the Year was Alldatglittersisgold for the second straight year, with three of her foals – Baby Bling, Bling It On and Show Me The Bling – winning 23 races and running 12 placings for just under half a million dollars in prizemoney.

## EQUALITY

The Australian harness racing industry comprises people from all walks of life and a study of our participants clearly shows there are no age or gender barriers.

We are fortunate to have so many young men and women in our training and driving ranks and we must ensure they stay involved long term. Administrators have an obligation to encourage these people to ensure they do not become disillusioned and abandon our industry.

There are many accomplished females firmly entrenched in the upper echelon of trainers and drivers, but there is no semblance of gender balance in administration. There are only seven women on the boards of HRA's member organisations, the controlling bodies and principal clubs in each state. This is an unacceptable statistic and must be addressed as we strive to broaden our market appeal and grow our fan base.



## INTEGRITY

Integrity remains a primary focus of all administrators and HRA's Members continued the commitment to identifying and penalising anyone breaching the Australian Rules of Harness Racing. Our industry has zero tolerance to the use of prohibited substances and fraudulent practices and the integrity officers of HRA Members are constantly meeting the challenges presented by people prepared to engage in illegal activities.

Fortunately most participants operate within the Rules and our integrity regime is highly effective in catching the few prepared to cheat. Nonetheless, it can be frustrating while our testing procedures and regulations catch up with a new prohibited substance, especially as our integrity officers, unlike the cheats, have to operate within the law.



Naomi Shelbourn and Saw Foot

It is even more frustrating when appeals courts in some jurisdictions show more sympathy for the cheats than the victims of their illegal activities, especially punters who have bet on the outcome of the race and the other participants in the event who have taken part believing it to be a level playing field. It can only be hoped some sanity prevails in the coming year and these jurisdictions address this appalling anomaly.

HRA was pleased to be a co-founder, with Standardbred Canada, of the International Racing Information and Intelligence Service (IRIIS) which launched during the season.

A major information sharing resource, IRIIS could play a critical role in improving integrity in many international jurisdictions. Apart from harness and thoroughbred bodies in Australia and Canada, racing organisations in the United States, Great Britain, Europe and Scandinavia were quick to join and more are expected to follow suit in the year ahead.

#### INDUSTRY FUNDING

The trend by punters to corporate bookmakers and fixed odds betting continued during the past year, although overall wagering turnover on Australian harness racing was up by almost three percent on the prior year.

Given that wagering is critical to our industry's funding, the increase in total turnover of more than \$61-million – or 2.66% – to almost \$2.4-billion was

pleasing. The increasing popularity of fixed price betting and corporate bookmakers is cause for concern however, as the returns to our industry from these products and operators are less than from the pari mutuel totalisator pools.

Total TAB turnover at almost \$1.7-billion was down marginally on the previous year but the pari mutuel component, of \$1.29-billion, was down \$204-million or almost 14%. Fixed odds betting with the TABs was \$402-million, up a stunning 98%, the second year running it had almost doubled in turnover volume.

The growth of turnover with corporate bookmakers provided further evidence that the industry's traditional funding model, of dependence on TAB distributions, has been seriously eroded. Turnover with the corporates rose almost 14% to just over \$527.4-million.

In a stark reminder of why the race fields legislation has been so critical to our industry, the statistics show the corporate bookmakers' share of total turnover rose by more than 8% and now stands at 28%.

Some jurisdictions have increased the commission paid by the corporates and it will be interesting to see the impact this has on industry funding in the years ahead.

The major betting exchange operator, Betfair, had net customer winnings – the criteria used to determine commission payments to the industry – of just over \$132-million, up almost two percent on the prior year but still some \$4-million down on 2011-2012 returns.



## WAGERING PANEL

Concern over a range of wagering matters prompted HRA to appoint a special committee in late 2013 to examine these issues and make recommendations as to how turnover can be boosted, with a resultant increase in industry funding. There are no easy answers, but it is also true nothing will happen without a concerted effort to address issues which are impacting on our business.

To assist in its deliberations the Wagering Panel undertook an exhaustive survey which attracted 1,000 respondents. Determining why and how people bet, and what factors influence their wagering decisions, was a primary objective of the survey – and there were some interesting results.

Not surprisingly, many of the respondents were passionate about harness racing and more than half of them were owners of standardbreds. While this indicated there was a strong link between ownership and wagering, 31% of respondents had no industry involvement other than wagering.

The main reasons given for betting on harness racing were consistent and reliable form, industry knowledge and familiarity, enjoyment and getting a return on their investment. This was especially so with the 14.3% of respondents who described themselves as professional punters.

In the debate over the growth of corporate bookmakers in recent years, one argument used by advocates has been the freedom of choice provided to punters. This of course ignores the point that corporate entities are driven by profit and punters who win consistently are a threat to bottom line performance.

Of the survey respondents, almost 80% of professional punters and 35% of regular punters have been prohibited from betting with a corporate bookmaker and many have experienced problems placing large bets.

Nonetheless, a third of the professionals preferred betting with the corporate bookmakers although overall the most popular betting method of harness punters who responded to the survey is with the TABs via the internet.

Short priced favourites, small pools, standing starts, slow race tempo and leader bias at small tracks were identified as unappealing elements of harness racing by respondents, along with a number of integrity issues such as a perception of team driving in some

races, use of prohibited substances, form reversals, stablemates, driving tactics and inconsistent stewards decisions.

The Wagering Panel report, including the recommendations, was still being compiled as this report was being finalised but I have no doubt it will create plenty of interest and, hopefully, will lead to positive changes in a number of areas.

It has been a major undertaking and I must thank the members of the Wagering Panel – chair Ross Cooper, along with Sam Nati, Harvey Kaplan and Shane Anderson, as well as secretary Andrew Kelly – for the great deal of time and effort they have devoted to the project.

## LOBBYING CAMPAIGN

There were some positive outcomes from the extensive lobbying undertaken by HRA and our Members with state and federal politicians, especially with the proposed increases in export fees for horses. The Department of Agriculture still imposed an increase but the lobbying by HRA and other interested parties managed to lessen the impact and resulted in a formal review of the fees and processes involved in exporting.

The inclusion of training facilities within the design of the new super quarantine station at Mickhelam in Victoria, despite the objections of some bureaucrats, was also a significant boost for harness racing, especially as we attempt to entice more foreign horses to compete in our major races.

HRA was particularly grateful to the federal Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce and Senator Richard Colbeck of Tasmania, along with several other members of federal parliament, for their assistance in these matters.

HRA continued to lobby politicians on a range of other matters. Key issues have been for the framing of national legislation to govern the funding of the racing industry, and for the Interactive Gambling Act (2001) to be strengthened to prevent exploitation by wagering operators who are not approved by Australian regulators.

National legislation was recommended by the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling in 2011 and has been endorsed by the past three Australasian Racing Ministers' conferences. The Victorian Premier, Dr. Denis Napthine, added his weight to the campaign in an approach to the federal government in December 2013.



There is no doubt the 2013 report on the Size & Scope of the Harness Racing Industry in Australia provided considerable data to add weight to our industry's lobbying efforts. Evidence that our industry makes a valuable economic contribution - more than \$1.4-billion in value added to Gross National Product - and facts such as more than 19,000 people rely on harness racing for their livelihood, are hard for politicians and regulators to ignore.

The need for a national approach to wagering regulation and taxation and better measures to deal with unauthorised offshore wagering operators were among the issues covered in a detailed submission HRA made in November 2013 to the federal government's National Commission of Audit. Established by the coalition to examine issues related to the division of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, including duplication, the Commission of Audit has not released a formal report.

It is understood however that the Commission advocated that a determined effort must be made to remove bureaucratic red tape and streamline operations within the various levels of government.

Other major planks of the HRA submission were the need for a national approach to integrity standards, particularly in relation to non-racing sporting bodies, and the need for a review of Australia's taxation laws in relation to the breeding of racehorses.

It is believed the HRA submission was well received by the Commission but only time will tell if this results in any legislative reform.



Racing at Dubbo

**UNITY OF PURPOSE**

Harness racing in Australia is a vibrant sporting industry with scores, if not hundreds, of dedicated administrators who devote countless hours to ensuring the well being of the business. We have committed and passionate people in every facet of the industry, whether they are trainers, drivers, owners, breeders or involved in some other capacity.

Despite this we seem incapable of tackling one of the biggest problems confronting our industry - parochialism! Local rules and a lack of consistency in penalties imposed in different jurisdictions are only one



Rebecca East

example of this parochial approach. Flawed disciplinary appeal structures in some states only add to the problem!

Many of our competitors for the leisure dollar are highly organised national sporting bodies, but we seem incapable of recognising our shortcomings. I've pointed out on several occasions that most football clubs in the major national competitions employ more marketing staff than we have in our entire industry.

Regardless of this we have had no real success in combining our resources, to take a collaborative approach to promoting harness racing throughout Australia.

I have long advocated a national media centre to focus on increasing the exposure of harness racing across all media and have questioned the need for several state based industry magazines, when it would be more cost effective to have one national publication.

Similarly, there is a wonderful opportunity to create a national media centre utilising the facility developed by Harness Racing NSW. A first class television studio housing Trots TV has been created at Menangle, where all online activities and traditional print operations have been consolidated. Other Members have undertaken some excellent digital projects but, despite an offer from NSW to host it, there has been no genuine attempt to co-operate on a single national media centre.

A committee appointed at HRA's mid-season meeting in Sydney in February to develop an industry wide new media plan had not even met by the end of the season. Despite the impact of new media and the digital age, and the potential effect of emerging technologies on our industry, we seem incapable of working together to meet the challenge.

Even the most blinkered administrator should realise by now that we need to become masters of our own destiny if we are to prosper in the years ahead and insulate harness racing from any adverse effects of technological change.

We have an excellent relationship with Sky Racing on operational matters and some of the coverage of major events in the past year has been outstanding. Unfortunately we have not been able to make any real progress with Sky management on the commercial issues we have been discussing for the past two years,

but we will continue to persevere in an attempt to find some common ground.

An effective Media Centre would with not only broaden our exposure to participants, punters and fans – and possibly a new digital audience – but also provide a measure of independence for the industry in the years ahead.

The world has changed and we need to move into the digital age with a cohesive, industry wide initiative.

## INTER DOMINION

The New South Wales Harness Racing Club and Harness Racing NSW must be congratulated on the outstanding Inter Dominion grand final day staged at Tabcorp Park Menangle in early March. The innovative format has helped broaden the promotion of the Inter Dominion with heats held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Christchurch and a magnificent programme of Group One races on grand final day.

Fabulous coverage of the heats and final on Sky Racing and national free to air exposure of the final on the Nine Network certainly bolstered the promotion of the event. The format was not embraced by all but it was a genuine attempt to reinvigorate the ailing series and won widespread acceptance, despite the detractors.

The third running of the Inter Dominion under this format will be staged at Menangle in early March and we look forward to another exciting final.

The Inter Dominion Event Committee has awarded the rights to the series for three years from the 2015-2016 season to Western Australia, following an outstanding tender submission from Racing and Wagering Western Australia and the Gloucester Park Harness Racing Club. Apart from the Interdom series there are widespread benefits for harness racing in WA, including some significant infrastructure developments.

The series will be run under the traditional format of three heats and a final, with the latter worth \$1.3-million. While I have no problem with the format change, the WA organisers face a significant challenge in ensuring widespread promotion of the event in Australia and New Zealand and maintaining the momentum to rebuild the Inter Dominion brand.

Given the passion and professionalism displayed to date, I have no doubt RWWA and Gloucester Park will meet the challenge head on.

Congratulations to both parties and their counterparts in NSW for working closely on a reshuffle of feature race dates which will give a much more potent look to the Grand Circuit in the 2015-2016 season.

The first round of Inter Dominion heats will be run at Gloucester Park on the 27th November 2015, a fortnight after the New Zealand Cup carnival at Addington. To accommodate this the New South Wales Harness Racing Club has moved the Miracle Mile to the last Sunday in February 2016, where it will be part of the sensational Super Sunday meeting at Menangle.

## WORLD TROTTING CONFERENCE

HRA chief executive Andrew Kelly chaired a meeting of CEOs from International Trotting Association member countries in Chicago in July, at which a wide range of subjects were canvassed. A key objective was consideration of agenda items for the next World Trotting Conference, to be held in Sydney in late February 2015.



The week long conference will coincide with the Inter Dominion championship final at Menangle. All members of the International Trotting Association are expected to send delegations, with particularly strong representation from Europe, Scandinavia and North America.

An interesting draft programme has been compiled and there have already been commitments from some major international industry figures to speak at the conference. All ITA members face common issues which will be addressed at the conference essentially with animal welfare, integrity, growing the fan base, wagering and funding threats, breeding and attracting new owners.

The World Driving Championship will be staged in conjunction with the conference, with some of the finest reinsmen (and possibly women) in the world displaying their skills. The series will be decided over twenty races staged over eight days at Menangle, Goulburn, Penrith, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga and Newcastle. We are grateful to Harness Racing NSW and the various clubs for their co-operation in staging and promoting the series.

It is possible some of the drivers may stay on an extra week for the Great Southern Star meeting at Tabcorp Park Melton.

Special tour packages have been designed for delegates, observers and other visitors to travel to Melbourne and other destinations before and after the conference.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chief Executive Andrew Kelly and the small team at HRA's Melbourne office do an outstanding job and are deserving of the highest praise for their endeavours, as does our legal counsel, Dean Cooper.

Special thanks also to the many people who serve on the various HRA committees and working parties, which make such a valuable contribution to our industry.

I'm especially grateful to the members of the HRA Executive Committee – deputy chairman Ken Latta, Treasurer Mark Carey, Rex Horne, Brian Speers, Matthew Benson and Warwick Stansfield.

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the magnificent contribution to the Executive, and our industry, of two long serving members who retired during the year. Graeme Campbell stepped down in late 2013 after four years as deputy chairman and the NSW representative on the Executive, while Ross Cooper retired late in the season after a similar term as HRA treasurer and the WA delegate. Both represented their states with distinction but always maintained a strong national focus.

HRA works closely with Harness Racing New Zealand on a wide range of issues and our thanks go to chairman Gary Allen and chief executive Edward Rennell and their colleagues for maintaining such a positive relationship.

### CONCLUSION

Many facets of our industry have been reviewed in recent years, but we have largely ignored the racing product which is at the very core of our business. A focus group of leading industry figures was held at Melton in August and engaged in some lively dialogue, prompted by a facilitator.

Further group sessions are planned in the year ahead and it is possible some positive benefits might result.

There is no doubt we have a fabulous, vibrant industry which is entrenched in the Australian sporting landscape, but we must strive to evolve and meet the challenges brought about by social, cultural and technological change if we are to continue to prosper.



Geoff Want  
Chairman





# CEO'S REPORT



In late 2010 Harness Racing Australia (HRA) released a strategic priorities document which was based on an extensive consultation and feedback exercise with all of our members. As an organisation, this was the start of an evolution - with HRA taking an active role in areas it had not traditionally been involved in.

The document also provided detail regarding HRA's mission:

#### 1. PEAK BODY

be the peak body for the Australian harness racing industry;

#### 2. GOVERNANCE

encourage the highest standards of professionalism and corporate citizenship in the management and conduct of our industry;

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP

provide outstanding representation, advice and service to our members as cost effectively as possible;

#### 4. INFLUENCE

present a strong, united and influential voice on behalf of our industry;

#### 5. INTEGRITY & RULES

defend the reputation of the industry with strong integrity regulation and strict rule enforcement

#### 6. BRAND

promote the value of harness racing; and

#### 7. INDUSTRY

foster our industry's wellbeing.

Four years on and it is interesting to reflect on HRA's continued development and efforts to fulfil this mission as set by the membership - and it is in this context that I present the 2014 Chief Executives Report.

As a peak national body for the sport and business of harness racing in Australia, HRA represents an industry responsible for the more than 48,400 individuals who are involved in the process of producing and preparing standardbreds for racing. Of these, there are 24,000 owners of standardbred racehorses who provide significant capital investment into the industry, as well as over 5,900 trainers and drivers and more than 5,500 breeders.

The process of producing and preparing standardbred racehorses to compete in the industry is worth more than half a billion dollars in direct expenditure alone to the Australian economy.

The majority of this is spent in regional Australia .

As such, HRA has been extremely active in representing industry needs in various lobbying efforts throughout the year. The need for a national approach to wagering regulation and taxation; the need for a national approach to dealing with unauthorised offshore wagering operators; the need for a national approach to integrity standards particularly in relation to non-racing sporting bodies; and the need for a review of Australia's taxation laws in relation to the breeding of racehorses were the major thrusts of HRA's efforts - particularly through the National Commission of Audit process.

In addition, HRA was at the forefront of opposing proposed increases in the Department of Agriculture export fees for registration and certification services, which were of a magnitude which would have severely impacted the business activities of many studs and breeders overnight. Fortunately, the export fee increases of 1 July 2014 were much reduced on original estimates and the breeding season has commenced with little or no impact. However, a major review of all fees and charges within the Department of Agriculture will require on-going dialogue. Fortunately HRA has won a seat at the table for this review

An extension of this is HRA's work in the area of equine health. Preparedness of our industry in the event of disease outbreaks is essential (as seen during equine influenza), and so a collaboration with other major livestock industries via HRA's membership of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) and National Management Group (NMG) saw Exercise Odysseus - a National Livestock Standstill Exercise Program - rolled out during 2014.

HRA has been a keen observer of throughout the development and minor use permit stages of the Equivac HeV Hendra Virus Vaccine for Horses - a remarkable breakthrough, with Dr Deborah Middleton and the team at Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) worthy of particular praise.



HRA supported the (full) registration of the product when considered by the APVMA in July, however, it is suggested that lifting some of the on-going cost burden constraints, such as vet only administration, may lead to a greater number of horse owners vaccinating and boosting horses into the future.



Hendra virus remains an emotive issue, with equine events and breed associations across the nation grappling with policy in this area. HRA maintains that the decision to vaccinate is for horse owners to make in conjunction with veterinary advice.

Equine health also has a close alliance with the industry's integrity regulations and in May 2014, strict rules and penalties regarding the use of anabolic androgenic steroids were introduced - banning their use in Standardbred racehorses. In addition, some members introduced a threshold for Cobalt following a number of studies, while work continues in monitoring the existence and use of other heavy metals which have no place in our sport.

It is pleasing to see out of competition testing activity stepped up to meet these integrity challenges, including the announcement of Australian Pacing Gold (APG) to test yearling for anabolic steroids in the lead-up to their major sales.

Embryo Transfer (ET) activity within the industry is also a multi-faceted issue with links to breeding, animal welfare and integrity. Both the understanding and regulation of ET has been lacking over a number of years, and as a result, administrators have agreed to introduce a renewed focus on this area of the business in order to make informed decisions for the future.

In a major boost for Stewards and integrity staff across the globe, an important tool in the continued fight against corruption in the racing industry - the International Racing Integrity Intelligence System (IRIIS) - was launched in July 2014.

IRIIS is a collaboration between Harness Racing Australia (HRA) and the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC), designed to share integrity related intelligence information, partner investigations and the conduct of jurisdictional, regional and international risk assessments among racing regulators, law enforcement agencies and industry organisations via a

secure internet portal.

It is envisaged that IRIIS will not only enhance communication among international jurisdictions, but provide reference points, trends, welfare insights and archival records for stewards and integrity staff across all States in Australia - acting as an occurrence reporting system for the purpose of storing and tracking cross border investigations, no matter how large or small.

Further, IRIIS will act as a centre of integrity excellence, highlighting industry research needs, sharing resources and data, while collaborating on sharing expertise, best practice methods and risk mitigation experiences.

A number of other jurisdictions and racing codes have caught on quickly, joining forces on important integrity related issues via IRIIS.

During the year HRA also solidified the centralisation of horse import activities - which has injected over \$800,000 to support breeding activities across the nation. While this is welcome news and the industry has witnessed a buoyant sales season, as well as much improved racing opportunities for fillies and mares in recent years - the breeding sector continues to battle a steady decline in live foals.

In an attempt to encourage breeders to continue and or serve their mares later in the season, a Festive Season Stallion Service Special was launched on Christmas Eve. The promotion provided evidence that foal dates reflected no evidence that an early foal has an advantage over late foals (defined as born between December and February). The comparative statistics for early versus late foals continue to make interesting reading, particularly when acknowledging that most foals are bred for personal use and not commercial sale:

#### **2012/13 SEASON:**

- \* 2yo born Sept - Nov average starts per starter = 5.17
- \* 2yo born Dec - Feb average starts per starter = 5.00
- \* 3yo born Sept - Nov average starts per starter = 9.13
- \* 3yo born Dec - Feb average starts per starter = 8.72
- \* 2yo born Sept - Nov % winners to starters = 31.34%
- \* 2yo born Dec - Feb % winners to starters = 32.93%
- \* 3yo born Sept - Nov % winners to starters = 46.53%
- \* 3yo born Dec - Feb % winners to starters = 44.58%

#### **2011/12 SEASON:**

- \* 2yo born Sept - Nov average starts per starter = 5.03
- \* 2yo born Dec - Feb average starts per starter = 4.99
- \* 3yo born Sept - Nov average starts per starter = 9.20
- \* 3yo born Dec - Feb average starts per starter = 9.22
- \* 2yo born Sept - Nov % winners to starters = 30.80%
- \* 2yo born Dec - Feb % winners to starters = 27.53%
- \* 3yo born Sept - Nov % winners to starters = 46.69%
- \* 3yo born Dec - Feb % winners to starters = 45.86%

The promotion was a reasonable success, with over 900 services recorded after the promotion was launched.

However, there are many reasons for the decline in racehorses and unfortunately no simple solutions. Reduced costs (not simply stallion service fees), improved returns, mare management, finding reproductive and administrative efficiencies, and providing competitive opportunities for all race horses are all parts of the puzzle - but the biggest response is to create increased demand via ownership.

Ownership needs a collective focus as it creates growth opportunities for so many other areas of our industry, be it larger fields, increased on-course patronage, improved wagering activity and new fans who are introduced to our sport via the family and social networks of these owners.

The importance of ownership was also identified through the work of the Wagering Working Party who commissioned a Wagering Survey during the year - where given the strong link between ownership and wagering was evidenced time and again.

The Wagering Working Party was established by the HRA Executive during the year with Terms of Reference:

1. To determine ways to grow wagering turnover on harness racing
2. To identify ways to broaden the appeal of Australian harness racing as a wagering proposition
3. To examine ways of making information more readily accessible to the punting public
4. To examine ways to attract and retain both new and existing customers



Racing at Eugowra

The report is eagerly awaited and likely to include recommendations in relation to integrity matters, licensing, ownership promotions and new bet types.

Although delayed 12-months to May 2015, HRA remains excited to be collaborating with Sky Racing on the presentation of Hot Shots - a one-lap racing product which is sure to be noticed with modern graphics and presentation style.



The run home

The introduction of the new Australian Driving Championship (ADC), to be hosted by Harness Racing South Australia (HRSA) and held at Globe Derby Park in October 2014 is further evidence of HRA's collective efforts to introduce new products and promote the industry is a positive light.

The ADC brings together arguably the best 12 reinspersons in the nation for a 6-race Series to compete for the title of Australian Driving Champion! - plus these performances will be factored into the selection of Australia's representative to compete in the World Driving Championship - which is conducted every second year, the next in New South Wales in 2015.

It is also satisfying to see that the Series has also attracted the interest of wagering operators who will provide punters with dynamic fixed odds options throughout.

The same is being arranged for the 2015 World Driving Championship (WDC) which is being held in New South Wales during the week leading up to the Inter Dominion Grand Final. The world's top ten drivers will compete in twenty races over seven days at six different metropolitan and regional New South Wales tracks; Menangle, Newcastle, Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Penrith. The ten competing drivers will represent Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and five European countries. The reigning World Driving Champion (Pierre Vercausse - France 2013) will also be defending his title.

This is an exciting opportunity for not only the regions and Clubs involved, but all harness racing enthusiasts.

At the same time, HRA is proud to be hosting fellow International Trotting Association members and friends at the 2015 World Trotting Conference (WTC) in Sydney from 25 February to 3 March 2015. Over 100 delegates and partners are anticipated to attend the Conference where plenary and committee sessions will tackle issues of Marketing & Business Development, Racing & Wagering, Integrity, Breeding and Equine Welfare.

This is a great opportunity to find common ground internationally on difficult issues, share experiences and plan for the future - all the while showcasing all facets of our industry here in Australia.



Kate Marriott, Trevor Casey, Mark Purdon, Duncan McPherson and Haley Toulmin – with My Arya

Revenues from international product exchange is increasingly important to HRA members, and it is forums such as these where existing networks are solidified and improved, while new opportunities are sourced.

With the assistance of Sky Racing, Australia exported a modest increase in trotting product to Europe, but a Group 3 race was included for the first time. In addition, more than 1200 extra races were imported from France, Sweden and the USA who now have an extra meeting per week in our calendar.

Imported product from New Zealand remains strong, as does Australian product exported to New Zealand punters. In fact, Australian racing is so popular it now accounts for more than 50% of New Zealand punters' wagering activity.

The (March) 2015 Inter Dominion in Sydney will be last of the Harness Racing New South Wales and New South Wales Harness Racing Club's three year custodianship of the industry's flagship event. The commitment, passion and enthusiasm displayed by the respective Boards, Committees and staff has been outstanding. It has been a pleasure to work with them and the event partners who have delivered stunning results.

We wish them every success for a brilliant final chapter before looking ahead to Perth in November 2015.

In a less positive development, despite winning an international marketing award for outstanding promotion, the consumer branding campaign titled We Will TROT You, set to the music of Queen's iconic rock anthem, We Will Rock You, had limited success as States and Clubs utilised more traditional and localised campaigns to attract customers.

On a brighter note, a relationship with the Chinese province of Xinjiang and capital, Beijing, has continued to build, with three separate orders being serviced. These horses, initially mainly trotters but more recently mixed gait, will be used in various competition pursuits and for breeding purposes. It is hoped that a more formal service agreements for horses, equine reproduction, studbook and infrastructure can be agreed in the near future.

In closing, it has again been an honour to serve the HRA Membership and wider industry on these and

other important activities throughout the year.

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

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

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

The relationship with our Members is also vital, and I thank their Boards, Chief Executives and senior management for their continued support, guidance and confidence given the day-to-day challenges of their own organisations.

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

I also wish to thank and make special mention for the contribution the recently retired Treasurer of HRA, Ross Cooper, has made locally in Western Australia, nationally here in Australia and around the globe in various international forums. Ross will be missed, but fortunately not lost as he maintains links to HRA via the Wagering Working party and the Perth Inter Dominion Steering Committee.

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

Andrew Kelly





#### KEY INDUSTRY STATISTICS.

HRA is the peak national body for the sport and business of harness racing in Australia. HRA consists of 13 Members from State Controlling Bodies and Principal Clubs who represent 116 racing Clubs, more than 30,000 owners, over 7000 licensed participants and the more than 19,000 people who rely on harness racing in part or totality for their livelihood.

In addition, more than 48,400 individuals are involved in the process of producing and or preparing Standardbreds for racing in Australia - with direct spending more than \$511 million annually - 64% of which is in regional Australia.

These 12,000 horses compete in over 15,000 races and trials annually - competing for \$111,000,000 in prizemoney.

A recent assessment of the Australian harness racing industry undertaken by IER for HRA1 highlights that nationally the harness racing industry is responsible for generating \$1,421.5 million in value added contribution to Gross National Product.



Kathleen Mullan



# THE TIDE IS TURNING

James Rattray and Beautide

In one astonishing season, Tasmanian harness racing's somewhat unjust reputation as a poor relation to its mainland cousins was systematically dismantled by a homebred pacer called Beautide.

The Bettors Delight gelding's graduation from free-for-all star in the Apple Isle to national domination on the Grand Circuit was both breathtaking and heart warming in equal measure.

Indeed, the post-race celebrations following Beautide's stunning 2014 Inter Dominion triumph at Tabcorp Park Menangle on March 2 featuring young gun trainer/driver James Rattray and his father Barrie were a rare but not surprising show of raw emotion generally reserved for the movie screen.

Beautide's elevation to number one ranking among Australia's pacing elite marked the culmination of a life-long conquest for Tasmania's most admired harness racing family.

Best recognised for his training and driving prowess, Barrie Rattray has bred three generations of Beautide's bloodlines, dating back to grand dam Barrington Lass, a 1982 foal.

Her daughter, Gorse Bush, was no racetrack slouch herself winning 10 races but has left an incredible legacy in the breeding barn, producing eight winners of 104 races and \$1.81m in stakes (at the time of writing) from her first eight foals.

Beautide's march to fame commenced just a couple of weeks shy of 12 months prior to his Inter Dominion obliteration, in the \$10,000 Metropolitan Cup at Hobart's Elwick racecourse.

Defeating just four rivals, it would have been impossible to predict at the time that the season ahead would deliver three Group One victories and earn the six-year-old the collective admiration of an industry renowned for its tough marking.

A career defining relocation to New South Wales in June, 2013 introduced Beautide to the spacious Menangle circuit and he responded positively, with a 1:54.5 win at his first try in metropolitan company.

He would subsequently win eight of his next 13 outings in his new home base, including the nation's premier sprint contest, the \$750,000 Group One Miracle Mile in a slashing 1:50.2 mile rate to announce his arrival as harness racing's newest "it" horse.

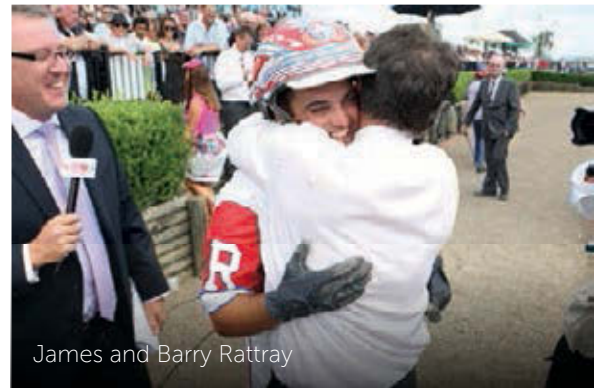
It was a far cry from his debut outing as a two-year-old on January 15, 2010 when he won a standing

start event at Burnie in a 2:12.7 mile rate.

Beautide travelled to Victoria to contest the Group One Victoria Cup and while beaten, was far from disgraced in placing fourth behind three seasoned open class superstars in For A Reason, Caribbean Blaster and Christen Me, before return to Menangle where he clocked two regulation free-for-all successes.

A unique format change saw the 2014 Inter Dominion heats contested on the same day at different venues before the top qualifiers ultimately came together for the Menangle showdown.

The somewhat radical revamp launched a new era for harness racing's most prestigious and time-honoured annual pacing championship in more ways than one, with 12 of the 14 combatants competing in their first Inter Dominion Grand Final.



James and Barry Rattray

Familiar faces such as former Grand Circuit champions Im Themightyquinn (2011 and 2013) and Smoken Up (2012) had been replaced by an exciting crop of up and coming talent, headlined by a giant killer from Tasmania with the world at his feet.

Beautide rounded out the season with victory in the \$100,000 Group One Len Smith Mile at Menangle to take his 2013/14 record to 12 wins from 14 starts for in excess of \$1.1m in stake earnings – pretty handy statistics by anyone's standards.

The stunning result, while largely due to the dedication and talent of Barrie and James, is a compliment to the collective Rattray family also including Todd and Gareth who have all played a role in the making of Beautide.

Remarkably, in 65 lifetime starts, the gelding has only once been driven by a reinsman outside his immediate circle, that privilege going to WA youngster Dylan Egerton-Green who partnered him to second placing in the 2013 Group Three NSW Rising Stars Series.

One of the few honours to elude Beautide in his break out year was the Australasian Grand Circuit Pacing Champion title which went the way of boom Kiwi Christen Me.

The crown was just reward for the Christian Cullen gelding's ultra-consistent season under the deft guidance of trainer Cran Dalgety and boom young driver Dexter Dunn.



James Rattray and Beautide



# LADY STARS SHINE BRIGHT

Blake Fitzpatrick, Nicole and Dean Molander and John Dumesny

Harness racing in Australia has moved well beyond marvelling at the achievements of its female participants.

Women have enjoyed sustained success at the industry's highest level, so much so that their feature and Group victories are an expected part of the racing landscape.

In celebrating equality, however, it remains important to acknowledge significant milestones which reinforce the exceptional depth of talent within the nation's female training and driving ranks.

One such milestone occurred in the 2013/14 season when, for the first time in recorded history, half of Australia's top 10 harness racing trainers were women.

The star performer was the Sunshine State's Vicki Rasmussen who finished fourth on the Australian premierships behind three widely accomplished and applauded horsemen - fellow Queenslander Grant Dixon, Steve Turnbull from NSW and WA's Gary Hall Snr.

Even more notably, Rasmussen broke new ground when she became the first female to train more than 200 winners in a single season, finishing the year with 204 firsts, 168 seconds and 115 thirds from her 1077 starters for stable stake earnings of \$1.1 million.

Her result eclipsed the previous best of 174 wins, set by Queensland compatriot Julie Weidemann in

the 2004/05 season and included 29 successes at metropolitan level to also secure the Albion Park Metropolitan Trainers' Premiership.

"I had no idea I was the first woman to train 200 winners - it was a big surprise when I found out and I was obviously very happy with the result," Rasmussen said.

"Mind you I think it's something you will see happen a lot more in years to come," she added, suggesting that while she might have created the benchmark, it will almost certainly be bettered in future seasons.

Rasmussen, 36, said the Metropolitan Training Premiership was a personal highlight of the season.

"It's the first time I've won that award and it was a very satisfying achievement. It's always hard to beat Grant (Dixon), but we were lucky to have a couple of horses who were on the right mark at the right time and worked their way through the classes over the course of the year," she explained.

Rasmussen's career best result in 2012/13 easily bettered her previous two seasons, when she prepared 149 and 150 winners to finish fifth and seventh respectively on the national tally.

She said hard work and weight of numbers were key to the impressive statistics.

"I had more horses in work - at some stages we were up to 45 in the stable. To be honest the entire season was chaos," she joked.

"We're back around 30 now and that's where I would like stay. I doubt I'll be able to replicate the results this season because I just don't ever want to be working that number again, but I'm really keen to keep the strike rate up moving forward," Rasmussen revealed.

She also paid special tribute to her partner Shane Graham for his role in the record breaking season.

"Shane spends as much time at the stable as I do. We have also been really lucky to always have good staff. With the numbers we work, you have to have good people around you."

Interesting, Rasmussen explained that the stable earns its bread and butter from mature, more experienced horses and has little interest in working with juvenile stock despite the wider industry's focus on rich two and three-year-old racing.

"I love taking good older horses to the races that you know, all things being equal, are going to be thereabouts the prize money.

"For me, the Drunken Desire's and Goulburn Guy's of the world are great fun to train and race," she said.

Given the duo collectively notched 15 wins and 17 placings from 69 starts for stakes nudging \$117,000 last season, Rasmussen's adoration would seem well placed.

And while she may have been the star female performer of the season just completed, she was certainly not lonely at the top of the national training premiership.

Belinda McCarthy's "have horse will travel" approach was rewarded with a raft of big race victories among her tally of 154 wins, which earned her seventh position overall.

Exciting young New South Wales talent Kerryann Turner finished eighth on 151 while enduring Victorian Emma Stewart easily bettered her results of the previous two seasons with 148 wins to claim ninth position.

Dynamic WA partnership Greg and Skye Bond rounded out the top 10 with another highly successful season which netted 148 wins.

At just 25 years of age, even Turner herself is surprised by the level of her achievement and admits she could not have envisioned the opportunities that have presented themselves in the past 12 months.

"I guess being a little bit older and more mature, things have just started to come together," she said, adding that her 23-year-old partner and stable driver Robbie Morris is an integral part of the team.

"I couldn't do it without him. We both love what we do, it's the lifestyle we've chosen and we really enjoy it. We don't have much of a life outside horses but that's okay," she conceded.

Turner kick started her career in the New South Wales Riverina, an area steeped in harness racing tradition, under the tutelage of her father Raymond.

She was an accomplished junior driver before turning her hand to training and has no regrets about the decision to hand over the race day reins.

"I guess I kicked a few goals when I was driving and that's led on to bigger and better things," she acknowledged.

"Once I got a couple of horses going okay, more owners were willing to give us a chance and that's probably why we were able to have our best season.

"In the previous 12 months we averaged 25 to 30 horses in work but last season our numbers were around 30 to 35, and at one stage we even got up to 40," Turner revealed.

"Having a bigger stable but more so better quality horses was important.

"Robbie and I also work very well as a team. When he broke his leg during the season I took over driving most of the horses and it was nice to get back in the sulky but I'm happy with my regular role – I really prefer to train," she said.

Turner pointed to a Group Two double at Menangle as her season highlight, but was also quietly chuffed to qualify five horses for Breeders Crown Super Sunday when the premier stables and best young pacers and trotters from both sides of the Tasman gathered at Victoria's Tabcorp Park, Melton to compete for over \$1 million in prize money.

"Unfortunately we didn't get a win, but it was a really good learning curve," the modest but eminently talented horsewoman suggested.

Special mention must also be made of ex-pat Kiwi Nicole Molander who may not have figured prominently on the national training tally but was none-the-less widely applauded during the 2013/14 season due largely to the achievements of stable pin-up Keystone Del.

The New South Wales horsewoman fulfilled an ambitious and carefully structured plan when her under-rated square gaiter upstaged the best trotters from both sides of the Tasman to triumph in the second annual running of Australia's newest "it" harness event, the \$300,000 Group One Great Southern Star at Tabcorp Park, Melton.

The Great Southern Star is inspired by the world's most famous trotting feature, Sweden's Elitloppet and is the only event of its type in Australia, comprising qualifying heats and a final staged on the same racing program.



*Claudys Fancy*

*Claudys Fancy*

*... & ...*

*Cohuna Car Sales  
Gunbowen Trotters Cup*

27.03.2011



*My Mate Claudy*

*... K. Harris, D. Arden, K. Riden, ...  
... J. Ellingham, ...  
... Green, ...*

GUS  
UNDERWOOD

When a retiring farmer gifted two Standardbred mares to Victorian trotting devotee Gus Underwood, he made him a prophetic promise.

"One of them will leave you a good horse one day," he predicted.

Stenson Vagg dabbled in breeding over multiple decades and raced horses with trainer Graeme Lang.

Underwood had carted hay for him as a young man, and was given half sisters Dame Finesse and Missus Mitchell when Vagg left the land and moved into town in the early 1990's.

Both matrons delivered early results, leaving Claudys Fancy who won 17 races in three Australian states, and the lightly raced but highly talented square gaiting mare Catchya Kasey.

A realistic and sensible Underwood was content that the duo had fulfilled their breeding destiny and adequately repaid Vagg's faith.

The iconic Goulburn Valley identity readily admits he did not think for one moment that the greatest excitement in his life-long association with the racing game was still to unfold.

"When people ask me why I have persevered for so long in trotting when it's such an expensive hobby, I've always said that there are plenty of good horses around and someone has to own them," Underwood revealed.

"My philosophy was 'why not us', but I could never have expected to breed and race a horse like Claudys Princess," he said.

Newly crowned Australian 3YO Trotting Filly of the Year, Claudys Princess completed a remarkable 2013/14 season, carrying over the impeccable form which saw her named the nation's premier female juvenile square gaiter 12 months earlier.

Her 13 three-year-old starts produced 10 wins including three at Group One level - the New South Wales/Victoria Trotters' Oaks double and Vicbred Super Series Final.

The daughter of Bacardi Lindy finished runner-up at her only other three outings and Underwood shares trainer Mick Blackmore's belief that, ironically, the defeats were among her season's best performances.

"She gave away 80 metres in her only standing start but still ran second, and that really convinced me she was a bit better than average," Underwood said, acknowledging he had always been inclined to play down the filly's potential.

"Then she had no luck in the Derby against the boys before sitting in the death in a heat of the Australasian Breeders' Crown.

"Our only disappointment was that she suffered a slight ligament strain on the morning of the Breeders' Crown Final and we had to scratch her.

"It was to be her last start for the season anyway and I'm certainly not complaining - we couldn't risk breaking her down completely," he said, adding that he expects the brilliant youngster to make a full recovery.

"She probably won't return to racing until March

or April next year and Mick's plan is to follow a similar path to Spidergirl - keep her to her own age and sex as much as possible."

A recipient of Harness Racing Victoria's Distinguished Service Medal in 2013, Underwood is an accomplished journalist who commenced his writing career with the Kyabram Free Press in 1961.

He joined the Shepparton News as trotting writer in 1970 and 44 years later, still contributes a weekly "Sulky Shorts" column to the Friday edition of the paper.

"Harness racing has been my hobby and my profession - and I really enjoy it," Underwood said, adding that the "Claudy" moniker carried by a significant number of his homebred horses is a tribute to his late uncle Claude who was once a groom for the Governor of Victoria and used to camp with him in a caravan over the summer months each year.

"I named my very first horse Claudy Brown after him - he only won one race at Albury.

"Then when my uncle passed away I named Claudys Fancy in his honour, and later My Mate Claudy who won seven races. I've tried to keep the name going down the Dame Finesse line," he revealed.

Claudys Princess is a grand daughter of Dame Finesse, and the first foal from the unraced Wind Cries Maori mare All Finesse.

"I had My Mate Claudy in work and I couldn't afford to be paying up for two racehorses. He looked like a better prospect than the mare so I decided to breed from her instead.

"Around the same time, a local footballer called Josh Pell won a free service to Bacardi Lindy in a Shepparton Harness Racing Club raffle and I told him if he was stuck for a mare, he could use one of mine," Underwood recalled.

Instead the pair struck a deal to go halves, with the understanding the resulting foal would be offered for sale as a yearling.

"She was an insignificant little thing and we were only asking \$4000 but no-one wanted to look at her so she came home.

"Josh couldn't afford to pay up for a horse, and I certainly didn't need any more at the time but I paid him out \$2500 for his share," he said.

"Once I realised she might be alright, I brought in a group of relatives and friends who had been involved in horses with me previously and there are six of us who race her now."

Underwood, 70, said Claudys Princess had revived his life after a host of serious health issues in recent years.

He is a leukaemia survivor whose heart problems have required an aortic valve replacement and the insertion of 12 stents.

"When they read my history in hospital they usually glance across to check I'm still alive," Underwood laughed.

"It's just lucky I'm not much of a worrier".



## 2014 HRA AWARD WINNERS

### 2014 AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR

BEAUTIDE

### LAWN DERBY AWARDS – PACERS

#### AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR **BEAUTIDE**

##### AUSTRALIAN PACER OF THE YEAR

##### AGED PACING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(brg 2007 by Bettors Delight USA from Gorse Bush)  
Performances: 14 starts 12 wins 1 placing \$1,119,844 1:50.2ms  
Owners: Rattray Family Trust  
Breeder: Rattray Family Trust  
Trainer: James Rattray. Driver James Rattray

##### AGED PACING MARE OF THE YEAR **FRITH**

(bm 2009 by Four Starzzz Shark CA from Jackie Kelly)  
Performances: 10 starts 7 wins 3 placings \$175,912 1:53.0ms  
Owner: Dianne Kelly  
Breeder: Dianne Kelly  
Trainer: Bruce Harpley. Driver: Bruce Harpley

##### 3YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR **BLING IT ON**

(bc 2010 by American Ideal USA from Alldatglittersisgold NZ)  
Performances: 23 starts 17 starts 4 placings \$351,099 1:51.7ms  
Owners: Harvey Kaplan, Sammy Kilgour, Peter O'Shea, Zilla O'Shea, Tracy Lamb, Allan Fairley  
Breeder: Harshell Investments Pty Ltd & K Kilgour  
Trainer: Belinda McCarthy. Driver: Luke McCarthy

##### 3YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR **BARYNYA**

(bf 2010 by Blissfull Hall USA from Lombo Anastasia)  
Performances: 15 starts 10 wins 4 placings \$210,282 1:55.7ms  
Owners: Lloyd & Judith Wish-Wilson  
Breeder: LJ & GF Menegon  
Trainer: Dick Eaves. Driver: Rohan Hillier

##### 2YO PACING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR **FOLLOW THE STARS**

(bc 2011 by Art Major USA from Smyrna Duruisseau USA)  
Aust Performances: 6 starts 6 wins 0 placings \$365,633 1:54.1ms  
Owners: Glenys & Philip Kennard, Neil Pilcher, Gavin Douglas, Philip & Margaret Creighton  
Breeder: Lauriston Bloodstock Pty Ltd  
Trainer: Mark Purdon. Driver: Mark Purdon

##### 2YO PACING FILLY OF THE YEAR **KATY PERRY NZ**

(brf 2011 by Bettors Delight USA from Karen Donna (NZ))  
Aust Performances: 4 starts 4 wins 0 placings \$230,475 1:57.8ms  
Owners: Christina Dalgety, Mark Calcott, Aaron Watson, Darryl Brown, Peter Bishop & Stephen Bishop  
Breeder: Breckon Bloodstock Ltd  
Trainer: Cran Dalgety. Driver: Dexter Dunn

### LAWN DERBY AWARDS – TROTTERS

#### AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR **KEYSTONE DEL NZ**

##### AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR **KEYSTONE DEL NZ**

(bg 2007 by Dr Ronerail USA from Flipside (NZ))  
Performances: 17 starts 11 wins 4 placings \$437,689 TR1:53.9ms  
Owners: Dean Molander, Alan Molander, Patrick Hall, Michael Hall  
Breeder: PT & MJ Hall  
Trainer: Nicole Molander. Driver: Blake Fitzpatrick

##### AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR **SPIDERGIRL**

(bm 2009 by Yankee Spider USA from Lunar Landing)  
Performances: 12 starts 8 wins 3 placings \$153,512 TR1:56.8ms  
Owners: Sheron Park Pty Ltd  
Breeder: Sheron Park Pty Ltd  
Trainer: David Aiken. Driver: Chris Alford

##### 3YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR **OUR TWENTYTEN NZ**

(bc 2010 by Muscles Yankee (US) from Regal Volo USA)  
Aust Performances: 6 starts 4 wins 1 placing \$107,500 TR2:01.1ms  
Owners: Glenn Scott, Samuel Morris, Arthur Anastasiou, Gus Holland, Peter Males, Tracey Cullen, Michael Park, Carol Fogarty  
Breeder: WR Feiss  
Trainer: Brent Lilley. Driver: Mark Purdon

##### 3YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR **CLAUDYS PRINCESS**

(bkf 2010 by Bacardi Lindy USA from All Finesse)  
Performances: 13 starts 10 wins 3 placings \$146,946 TR1:59.3ms  
Owners: Catchya Racing Group  
Breeder: GJ Underwood  
Trainer: Mick Blackmore. Driver: Gavin Lang

##### 2YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR **ELJAYKAY PHOENIX**

(bg 2011 Sundon USA from Maple Eve Phoenix)  
Performances: 10 starts 8 wins 2 placings \$169,622 TR2:02.6ms  
Owners: Ashley Haynes, Christopher Shaw, Ted Payne, Brian Payne.  
Breeder: RA Haynes. CA Shaw, EA Payne, BM Payne.  
Trainer: Joshua Aiken. Driver: David Aiken.

##### 2YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR **MY ARYA NZ**

(bf 2011 by Angus Hall (US) from Belle Galleon (NZ))  
Aust Performances: 3 starts 2 wins 1 placing \$65,288 TR2:02.7ms  
Owner: Trevor Casey  
Breeders: TG Casey, MJ & JM Bowden.  
Trainer: Mark Purdon. Driver: Mark Purdon

### 2013/2014 J.D. WATTS AWARDS

#### LEADING AUSTRALIAN TRAINER

Grant Dixon 260 wins

#### LEADING AUSTRALIAN DRIVER

Chris Alford 298 wins

### 2013/2014 GLOBE DERBY AWARDS (PROUDLY SPONSORED BY IRT)

#### BETTORS DELIGHT

Leading Sire by Stakemoney

#### ART MAJOR USA

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney

#### SUNDON USA

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney





## 2013/2014 WINONA AWARD (PROUDLY SPONSORED BY IRT)

### AUSTRALIAN BROODMARE OF THE YEAR

ALLDATGLITTERSISGOLD NZ

Alldatglittersisgold NZ is owned by Harshell Investments Pty Ltd and Est of Kaye Kilgour and has been voted the 2014 Australian Broodmare of the Year for the second year running.

Overall she is the dam of six foals of racing age - with four (4) winners.

Three (3) of Alldatglittersisgold NZ's progeny won 23 races during the season, as detailed below.

#### ALLDATGLITTERSISGOLD NZ (F2000)

by Caprock USA from Glitter (NZ) by Lordship from Sandra Del (NZ) by Armbro Del USA

Overall Record:

Dam of 6 of Racing Age – 4 winners 4 win 2:00

**2013/2014 Record: 3 winners 23 wins 12 placings \$495,756**

#### BABY BLING NZ

(P:1:52.8ms) 4 wins 3 placings \$104,412

30/11/13	C-LITE ROBIN DUNDEE STAKES (GROUP 2)	G2	\$50,000	MENANGLE
16/05/14	ANGELIQUE CLUB CUP	LC	\$25,505	MELTON
13/06/14	HARNESS BREEDERS (VIC) RICHMOND LASS	LC	\$25,275	MELTON

#### BLING IT ON

(P:1:51.7ms) 17 wins 4 placings \$351,099

19/07/14	2014 SKY RACING QUEENSLAND DERBY (G1)	G1	\$100,000	ALBION PARK
30/11/13	SEW DRIVING THE WORLD CHOKIN THREE YEAR OLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (G2)	G2	\$50,000	MENANGLE
17/05/14	2014 SEYMOUR NURSERY PACE 3YO COLTS & GELDINGS FINAL (G2)	G2	\$75,000	ALBION PARK
05/07/14	THE FUTURITY (G3)	G3	\$45,000	ALBION PARK
12/07/14	2014 TATSBET GOLD COAST DERBY (G3)	G3	\$30,000	ALBION PARK

#### SHOW ME THE BLING

(P:1:58.0ms) 2 wins 5 placings \$40,245

HRA congratulates the owners, and everyone associated with Alldatglittersisgold NZ.

The breeding record for Alldatglittersisgold NZ includes:

#### ALLDATGLITTERSISGOLD NZ

(00Z8334) bm 2000, by Caprock USA 1:52.8MS from Glitter (NZ) by Lordship 1:58.4 from Sandra Del (NZ) by Armbro Del USA.

Breeder: CL Jones & IG Stormont, NZ

27.11.05 bbf **HECTIC NZ** (Late Shezagolddigger NZ) (05Z5161) 3,1:59.7MS;1:56.7MS \$97,745 by I Am A Fool USA, PT Blanchard, NZ

23.11.07 bf **BABY BLING NZ** (07Z0483) 3,1:56.0MS;1:50.5MS \$853,890 by Western Terror USA, Jordash Breeding Trust & MK Kilgour, NZ

20.12.08 brf **GLITTERAZZI** (NZ) (08Z4413) by McArdle USA

20.12.09 brg **MY APACHE GOLD NZ** (Late Apache Gold NZ) (09Z8101) \$3,765 by Elsu NZ

19.12.10 bc **BLING IT ON** (S3101035) 2,1:53.1MS; 3,1:51.7MS \$711,122 by American Ideal USA, Harshell Investments Pty Ltd, K Kilgour, Vic

17.12.11 bbrc **SHOW ME THE BLING** 2,1:58.0MS \$40,245 (S3111128) by Grinfromeartoear USA, Harshell Investments Pty Ltd, Estate OF Kaye Kilgour, Vic

05.12.12 bc **BLINGITTOTHEMAX** (S3120939) by Art Major USA

# FROM THE TRACK

Racing at Narrabri

## 2014 LEADING TRAINER – GRANT DIXON

For the third consecutive season, Grant Dixon set the benchmark for Australian harness racing trainers in 2013/14.

In a remarkable show of dominance, the champion Queensland horseman has claimed the national trainer's premiership every year since officially taking over at the helm of his family's bustling Tambourine property at the end of the 2011.

Dixon's success pays homage to the achievements of his predecessor and mentor, father Bill who was Australia's leading trainer from 2008 to 2011 inclusive.

It likewise establishes beyond question the Dixon family's multi-generational standing as an iconic industry leader, a recognition which extends well outside the Queensland State borders.

Dixon concluded the racing year on August 31, 2014 with a tally of 260 wins, comprised of 237 country successes and 23 victories at metropolitan level.

The stable's stake earnings topped \$2 million and its 1594 starters achieved an impressive winning strike rate of 6.1.

The result eclipsed Dixon's previous season tally of 226 wins and fell just five short of his career best mark of 265 wins, set in his first year of training.

As a true indication of his all-round talent, Dixon also drove 189 winners for the season which placed him sixth on the national premiership.

The enormity of Dixon's record is matched only by his determination, courage and resilience – having overcome a life threatening illness in recent years.



Grant Dixon

## 2014 LEADING DRIVER – CHRIS ALFORD

Quite simply, there are not enough superlatives to adequately or appropriately acknowledge Victorian reinsman Chris Alford's career achievements.

A regular in this report, the enduring Alford is rightly revered as harness racing royalty due in no small part to 16 driving successes at Grand Circuit, the industry's most elite level.

In 2013/14, he added a record ninth Australia Drivers' Premiership to his resume, concluding the season with 298 victories from 1487 races representing an exceptional winning strike rate of one in five.

The tally comprised 248 country and 50 metropolitan successes for accumulated stake earnings in excess of \$2.8 million.

The enormously popular and admired Alford has enjoyed a remarkable driving renaissance.

He won his first J.D. Watts Award in 1994 and followed up with consecutive National Premierships from 1996 to 2000 inclusive.

He subsequently played second fiddle to fellow Victorian superstars Kerryn Manning and Daryl Douglas for more than a decade before reclaiming the Australian title in 2012.

In addition to his third straight national award, an undoubted highlight of Alford's most recent season came at the time honoured Kilmore Pacing Cup meeting when he notched his 5000th career win.

Joining the mercurial Gavin Lang as the only Australian reinsman to surpass the magical milestone, he achieved the feat leading throughout aboard star Kiwi import Macho Comacho.

Based at Bolinda where also heads a successful training operation in partnership with his wife Alison and children Katie and Sam, Alford is widely acknowledged as one of the industry's "good guys".

In addition to his widely applauded racetrack deeds, he has been a dedicated charity campaigner in recent years for the Children's Tumour Foundation which aims to raise awareness and funds to support research into a genetic disorder known as neurofibromatosis.

## AUSTRALASIAN YOUNG DRIVER OF THE YEAR – ANDRE POUTAMA

The Australasian Young Drivers' Championship (AYDC) is conducted annually and brings together the best up and coming driving talent from Australia and New Zealand

The 10 invitees include one representative from each Australian State and the North and South Islands of New Zealand together with the New Zealand Junior Driving Champion.

Under normal circumstances, defending AYDC title holder Chris Voak would also have contested the 2014 series which was hosted for the second consecutive year by Harness Racing New South Wales.

However, given he was no longer eligible due to age restrictions, his home state of Western Australia was invited to send two representatives.

The AYDC is a points-score series conducted over 10 heats.

The latest edition coincided with the running of the Inter Dominion Pacing Championship and featured events at Bathurst, Young, Bankstown and Tabcorp Park, Menangle.

Participants were immersed in the colour and excitement of the biggest day on the Australasian harness racing calendar, and enjoyed a valuable and unique social and racing experience across the duration of the Championship.

The 2014 AYDC title went to New Zealand North Island representative Andre Poutama who was a model of poise and consistency, notching one win, two seconds, four thirds and a fourth from his 10 drives.

Completing a Kiwi domination, New Zealand South Island representative Samantha Ottley finished runner-up overall.

Tasmanian young gun Dylan Ford claimed third place and showed his talent with three wins across the series, including the prized final heat on Inter Dominion grand final day.

On the same program, AYDC representative Narissa McMullen flew the Queensland flag with distinction, taking top honours in an Invitational Ladies Challenge Race.

Poutama concluded the racing year with 40 wins and 73 placings from 625 drives and is no doubt looking forward to defending his AYDC title in 2015 when the series will be hosted in his homeland.



Geoff Want HRA Chairman and Andre Poutama

## AUSTRALIAN DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP

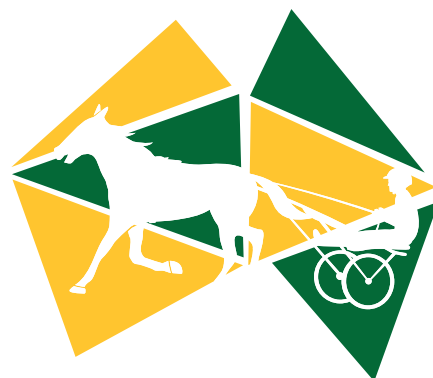
The inaugural Australian Driving Championship will take place at Globe Derby Park in Adelaide on Saturday 18th October. This championship, designed to assemble Australia's best drivers in a fierce competition, will be conducted over 6 heats with points awarded based on finishing positions.

The championship, a joint initiative between Harness Racing Australia and Harness Racing South Australia, will allow these top drivers to showcase their skills and talent in a manner never seen before.

The drivers invited to compete are:

- David Harding and Ryan Hyrhorec (SA)
- Greg Sugars and Chris Alford (Vic)
- Gary Hall (Jnr) and Chris Voak (WA)
- Amanda Turnbull and Blake Fitzpatrick (NSW)
- Ricky Duggan and Gareth Rattray (Tas)
- Matthew Neilson and Pete McMullen (QLD)

With well over 20,000 race wins between them the action is sure to be fast paced and keenly contested. In addition to any bragging rights, the Australian Champion will have their performance factored into the selection of Australia's representative to compete in the World Driving Championships – which is conducted every second year. Next year the event is to be staged in New South Wales during February and March with the final heat being conducted on Inter Dominion final day.



**AUSTRALIAN  
DRIVING**  
CHAMPIONSHIP '14

# NATIONAL STATS

Racing at Eugowra

## PRIZEMONEY

### 2013/2014 TOP 10 STARTERS – BY PRIZEMONEY

NAME	AGE	SEX	STARTS	WINS	SEASON BEST MILE RATE	AUST SEASON PRIZEMONEY	*CAREER PRIZEMONEY
Beautide	6yo	Gelding	14	12	1:50.2ms	\$1,119,844	\$1,338,837
For A Reason	7yo	Horse	11	4	1:49.4ms	\$455,828	\$803,433
Keystone Del NZ	6yo	Gelding	17	11	1:53.9ms	\$437,689	\$576,023
Christen Me NZ	5yo	Gelding	4	1	1:59.2ms	\$429,391	\$997,893
Hokonui Ben NZ	7yo	Gelding	18	6	1:54.3ms	\$398,410	\$614,529
Follow The Stars	2yo	Colt	6	6	1:54.1ms	\$365,633	\$455,409
Im Victorious NZ	5yo	Gelding	12	7	1:53.5ms	\$351,225	\$752,035
Bling It On	3yo	Colt	23	17	1:51.7ms	\$351,099	\$711,122
Restrepo	5yo	Horse	18	4	1:52.8ms	\$303,531	\$471,906
Seel N Print NZ	6yo	Gelding	35	8	1:50.2ms	\$276,184	\$579,628

\* Career Prizemoney as at 31 August 2014 - includes Aust and Overseas performances

### 2013/2014 TOP 10 SIRES – BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire				AUST	2YO	2YO	2YO	2YO	3YO	3YO	3YO	3YO
	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
Bettors Delight USA	407	290	905	\$9,215,974	47	28	61	\$1,051,753	56	40	104	\$823,430
Art Major USA	477	303	886	\$8,557,360	63	30	69	\$1,382,817	123	80	231	\$2,349,133
Mach Three CA	266	196	577	\$4,123,843	20	11	18	\$202,389	61	49	126	\$753,714
Christian Cullen NZ	234	143	409	\$3,979,214	4	0	0	\$7,460	22	17	53	\$489,278
Grinfromeartoear USA	342	199	435	\$2,931,301	59	24	42	\$343,108	118	65	133	\$822,835
Modern Art USA	292	170	407	\$2,794,444	44	11	22	\$309,038	82	46	109	\$662,339
Courage Under Fire NZ	281	146	370	\$2,625,053	32	7	11	\$202,196	77	43	115	\$614,427
Live Or Die USA	245	146	351	\$2,554,177	27	10	15	\$119,022	31	21	55	\$363,576
Blissfull Hall USA	255	157	417	\$2,543,452	0	0	0	\$0	24	11	30	\$311,312
Village Jasper USA	275	153	361	\$2,340,153	21	8	11	\$98,329	36	16	30	\$150,655

### 2013/2014 TOP 10 BROODMARE SIRES – BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire				AUST	2YO	2YO	2YO	2YO	3YO	3YO	3YO	3YO
	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
Holmes Hanover USA	445	275	718	\$5,255,879	34	18	35	\$353,552	58	37	95	\$901,485
In The Pocket USA	265	177	519	\$4,436,984	24	14	23	\$701,235	56	34	92	\$770,254
Fake Left USA	391	222	560	\$4,108,533	49	19	35	\$353,883	78	42	103	\$703,994
Safely Kept USA	373	202	479	\$4,071,545	51	19	43	\$611,396	87	46	91	\$690,908
Sokys Atom USA	272	146	408	\$3,519,321	17	4	5	\$38,146	28	15	46	\$230,269
Armbro Operative USA	315	161	373	\$2,537,142	53	18	31	\$342,535	68	34	77	\$463,188
Falcon Seelster USA	201	112	279	\$2,523,509	19	10	20	\$242,035	34	19	42	\$248,088
Albert Albert USA	223	136	348	\$2,468,747	37	16	32	\$317,629	44	30	75	\$370,467
Live Or Die USA	141	88	263	\$2,235,049	18	7	12	\$132,704	35	19	64	\$481,513
Classic Garry	258	134	298	\$2,052,716	22	4	12	\$145,576	37	17	35	\$254,818

## 2013/2014 TOP 10 DRIVERS – BY WINS

DRIVER	STARTS	WINS	SECONDS	THIRDS	FOURTHS	TOTAL STAKES	METRO WINS	METRO STAKES	COUNTRY WINS	COUNTRY STAKES	STATE
Chris Alford	1,487	298	214	189	146	\$2,813,983	50	\$1,513,621	248	\$1,300,362	VIC
Amanda Turnbull	883	220	169	115	94	\$1,744,709	31	\$802,870	189	\$941,839	NSW
Greg Sugars	1,431	218	215	205	158	\$2,091,265	31	\$1,009,759	187	\$1,081,506	SA
Ryan Hryhorec	775	213	126	103	89	\$645,160	54	\$279,388	159	\$365,772	SA
Gavin Lang	984	210	144	130	93	\$2,414,098	38	\$1,476,737	172	\$937,361	VIC
Grant Dixon	999	189	154	148	111	\$1,332,504	14	\$481,907	175	\$850,598	QLD
Daryl Douglas	1,727	183	201	204	194	\$1,252,766	7	\$201,676	176	\$1,051,091	VIC
Nathan Jack	954	177	143	116	99	\$1,425,194	14	\$562,938	163	\$862,257	VIC
Gary Hall (Jnr)	640	174	82	84	57	\$2,211,634	74	\$1,602,488	100	\$609,146	WA
Peter McMullen	1,075	174	173	142	120	\$854,634	10	\$112,448	164	\$742,187	QLD

## 2013/2014 TOP 10 TRAINERS – BY WINS

DRIVER	STARTS	WINS	SECONDS	THIRDS	FOURTHS	TOTAL STAKES	METRO WINS	METRO STAKES	COUNTRY WINS	COUNTRY STAKES	STATE
Grant Dixon	1,594	260	230	229	181	\$2,028,279	23	\$812,711	237	\$1,215,568	QLD
Steve Turnbull	1,250	217	179	170	148	\$1,626,788	30	\$607,702	187	\$1,019,086	NSW
Gary Hall (Snr)	832	214	118	98	71	\$3,138,183	107	\$2,512,954	107	\$625,229	WA
Vicki Rasmussen	1,077	204	168	115	114	\$1,144,215	29	\$313,243	175	\$830,972	QLD
Shane Tritton	748	183	103	83	67	\$1,612,652	45	\$946,298	138	\$666,354	NSW
Shayne Cramp	572	163	107	69	61	\$850,572	4	\$107,683	159	\$742,889	VIC
Belinda McCarthy	693	154	118	74	69	\$2,796,375	49	\$2,107,944	105	\$688,431	NSW
Kerryann Turner	735	151	91	99	85	\$1,141,403	24	\$529,620	127	\$611,783	NSW
Greg And Skye Bond	828	148	128	103	75	\$1,282,044	25	\$528,795	123	\$753,249	WA
Emma Stewart	520	148	80	72	49	\$1,818,706	31	\$1,246,446	117	\$572,260	VIC

## ALL TIME: 2:00 AND 1:55 HORSES AND THE NUMBER OF TIMES BROKEN

SEASON	2.00 ONE MILE		2.00 DISTANCES		2.00 TOTAL		1.55 ONE MILE		1.55 DISTANCES		1.55 TOTAL	
	Performance	Horses	Performance	Horses	Performance	Horses	Performance	Horses	Performance	Horses	Performance	Horses
2013-2014	1,200	807	5,838	2,833	7,038	3,222	366	215	254	201	620	390
2012-2013	1,635	1,084	4,657	2,478	6,292	3,038	375	227	163	126	538	333
2011-2012	1,437	978	3,959	2,158	5,396	2,694	243	164	93	75	336	144
2010-2011	1,265	886	3,528	1,953	4,793	2,482	121	89	72	61	193	144
2009-2010	1,101	831	3,230	1,826	4,331	2,372	42	39	50	34	92	71
2008-2009	985	752	2,576	1,498	3,561	2,250	21	20	9	8	30	27
2007-2008**	547	469	2,016	1,248	2,485	1,795	12	12	5	5	17	17
2006-2007*	595	488	2,376	1,408	2,003	1,896	5	5	9	8	14	11
2005-2006	495	408	2,176	1,337	2,671	1,745	5	5	6	5	11	10
2004-2005	532	449	2,021	1,253	2,553	1,702	3	3	8	8	11	11
2003-2004	416	352	1,632	1,027	2,048	1,379	3	3	4	2	7	4
2002-2003	459	372	1,265	838	1,724	1,210	2	2	-	-	2	2
2001-2002	488	387	1,068	721	1,556	1,108	2	2	1	1	3	3
2000-2001	362	295	1,092	717	1,454	1,012	8	7	2	2	10	9
1999-2000	378	294	1,041	699	1,419	993	2	2	-	-	2	2
1998-1999	351	277	911	597	1,262	874	3	3	1	1	4	4
1997-1998	292	233	754	532	1,046	765	4	4	-	-	4	4
1996-1997	288	232	731	499	1,019	731	2	2	1	1	3	3
1995-1996	258	209	493	356	751	565	2	2	1	1	3	3
1994-1995	196	165	379	263	575	428	-	-	-	-	-	-
1993-1994	215	182	412	289	627	471	1	1	-	-	1	1
1992-1993	214	171	285	193	499	364	1	1	-	-	1	1
1991-1992	195	167	336	242	531	409	2	2	1	1	3	3
1990-1991	295	220	316	195	611	415	1	1	-	-	1	1
1989-1990	303	192	275	195	578	387	3	3	-	-	3	3
1988-1989	263	162	334	220	597	382	1	1	-	-	1	1
1987-1988	188	134	196	136	384	270	4	4	-	-	4	4
1986-1987	146	111	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
1985-1986	124	90	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
1984-1985	185	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1983-1984	115	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2013/2014 TOP 20 FASTEST - PACERS

HORSE	AGE	SEX	RATE	DISTANCE	DATE	DRIVER	TRAINER	TRACK
For A Reason	7yo	Horse	1:49.4ms	Mile	02/11/13	J P McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Suave Stuey Lombo	6yo	Gelding	1:49.6ms	Mile	17/06/14	D R Morris	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Smoken Up NZ	11yo	Gelding	1:49.9ms	Mile	23/11/13	L J Justice	L J Justice	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Beautide	6yo	Gelding	1:50.2ms	Mile	30/11/13	J R Rattray	J R Rattray	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Seel N Print NZ	6yo	Gelding	1:50.2ms	Mile	22/02/14	T P McCarthy	T P McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Guaranteed	4yo	Horse	1:50.4ms	Mile	02/03/14	G Lang	E J Stewart	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Im Themightyquinn NZ	9yo	Gelding	1:50.4ms	Mile	05/07/14	G E Hall (Jnr)	G E Hall (Snr)	Albion Park
Mach Beauty	5yo	Gelding	1:51.0ms	Mile	08/02/14	D R Morris	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Zenable NZ	4yo	Filly	1:51.2ms	Mile	29/06/14	M B Turnbull	K A Turner	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Chariot King	7yo	Gelding	1:51.3ms	Mile	20/05/14	J N Douglass	J F Tapp	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
El Fuego	3yo	Gelding	1:51.3ms	Mile	4/03/14	G W Mcelhinney	E A Heath	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Chilli Palmer NZ	4yo	Gelding	1:51.5ms	1720m	8/02/14	N R Jack	D F Braun	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Brave Wiggy NZ	8yo	Gelding	1:51.6ms	Mile	31/12/13	L R Panella	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Iam Mr Brightside NZ	3yo	Colt	1:51.6ms	Mile	11/01/14	R P Morris	K A Turner	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Bling It On	3yo	Colt	1:51.7ms	Mile	27/04/14	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Freyberg NZ	6yo	Gelding	1:51.7ms	Mile	19/07/14	J R Rattray	K J Pizzuto	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Satellite Ace	6yo	Gelding	1:51.7ms	Mile	2/03/14	K A Turner	D J Reynolds	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Victoria May NZ	5yo	Filly	1:51.7ms	Mile	2/11/13	P J Diebert	S J Snudden	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Gaius Caesar NZ	7yo	Gelding	1:51.9ms	Mile	28/12/13	D J Binskin	D J Binskin	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Essbee Doubleyou Nz	5yo	Colt	1:52.0ms	Mile	2/03/14	N J McMullen	P V Walsh	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Im Supersonic	4yo	Colt	1:52.0ms	Mile	18/02/14	L R Panella	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Little Red Cloud	6yo	Filly	1:52.0ms	Mile	19/07/14	C Geary	P V Walsh	Tabcorp Pk Menangle

## 2013/2014 FASTEST PERFORMERS - BY AGE/SEX - PACERS

	SEX	HORSE	RATE	DISTANCE	DATE	DRIVER	TRAINER	TRACK
OVERALL								
	Horse	For A Reason	1:49.4ms	Mile	2/11/13	J P McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Mare	Zenable NZ	1:51.2ms	Mile	29/06/14	M B Turnbull	K A Turner	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Gelding	Suave Stuey Lombo	1:49.6ms	Mile	17/06/14	D R Morris	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
4YO+								
	Horse	For A Reason	1:49.4ms	Mile	2/11/13	J P Mccarthy	B J Mccarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Mare	Zenable Nz	1:51.2ms	Mile	29/06/14	M B Turnbull	K A Turner	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Gelding	Suave Stuey Lombo	1:49.6ms	Mile	17/06/14	D R Morris	S P Tritton	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
3YO								
	Colt	Iam Mr Brightside NZ	1:51.6ms	Mile	11/01/14	R P Morris	K A Turner	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Filly	Nike Franco NZ	1:52.6ms	Mile	8/02/14	C A Alford	D F Braun	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Gelding	El Fuego	1:51.3ms	Mile	4/03/14	G W Mcelhinney	E A Heath	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
2YO								
	Colt	Birdy Mach	1:53.8ms	Mile	17/06/14	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Filly	Read About Lexy	1:54.6ms	Mile	12/07/14	B J Hewitt	B J Hewitt	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Gelding	Ominous Warning	1:55.1ms	Mile	17/02/14	M P Rue	P D Trevor-Jones	Tabcorp Pk Menangle

## 2013/2014 LEADING STAKESWINNERS - BY AGE/SEX - PACERS

	SEX	HORSE	STARTS	WINS	STAKEMONEY	MILE RATE
OVERALL						
	Horse	For A Reason	11	4	\$455,828	1:49.4ms
	Mare	Katy Perry NZ	4	4	\$230,475	1:57.8ms
	Gelding	Beautide	14	12	\$1,119,844	1:50.2ms
4YO+						
	Horse	For A Reason	11	4	\$455,828	1:49.4ms
	Mare	Katy Perry NZ	4	4	\$230,475	1:57.8ms
	Gelding	Beautide	14	12	\$1,119,844	1:50.2ms
3YO						
	Colt	Bling It On	23	17	\$351,099	1:51.7ms
	Filly	Barynya	15	10	\$210,282	1:55.7ms
	Gelding	Major Crocker	24	9	\$264,665	1:55.0ms
2YO						
	Colt	Follow The Stars	6	6	\$385,633	1:54.1ms
	Filly	Katy Perry NZ	4	4	\$230,475	1:57.8ms
	Gelding	Its Only Rocknroll	9	2	\$96,910	1:55.5ms

## 2013/2014 TOP 20 FASTEST - TROTTERS

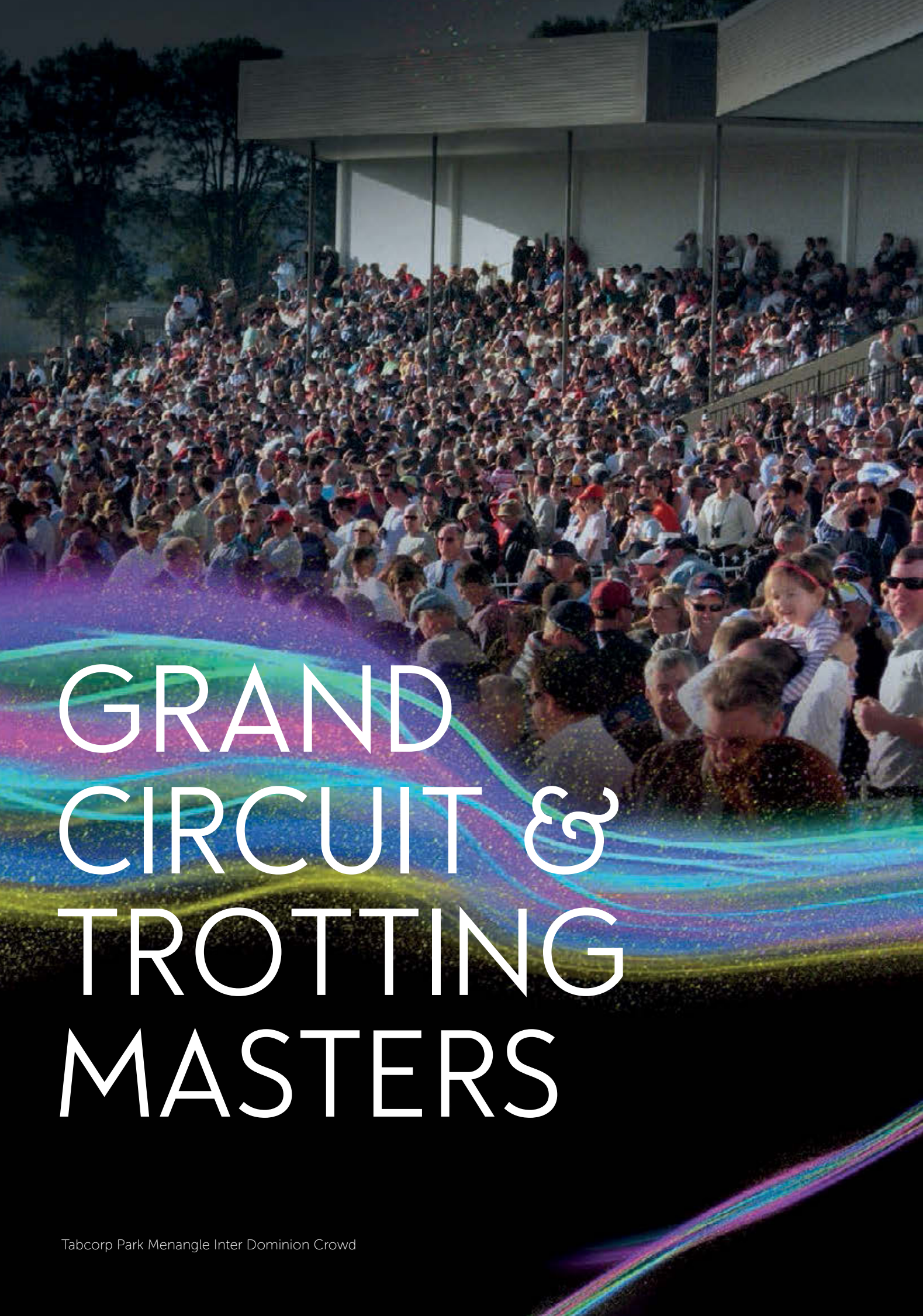
HORSE	AGE	SEX	RATE	DISTANCE	DATE	DRIVER	TRAINER	TRACK
Flying Isa NZ	5yo	Gelding	1:53.2ms	Mile	04/03/2014	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Keystone Del NZ	6yo	Gelding	1:53.9ms	Mile	02/03/2014	B P Fitzpatrick	N C Molander	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Stent NZ	5yo	Gelding	1:56.0ms	1720	22/03/2014	C J De Filippi	C J De Filippi	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Vics Cheval	4yo	Mare	1:56.2ms	Mile	14/03/2014	D Aiken	D Aiken	Shepparton
Aleppo Midas	6yo	Mare	1:56.3ms	1720	21/02/2014	K M Gath	M K Eastman	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Elegant Image	6yo	Gelding	1:56.3ms	1720	07/03/2014	K M Gath	A P Gath	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Habitbi NZ	4yo	Mare	1:56.5ms	1720	30/11/2013	D J Butt	D J Butt	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Galaxy Hunter NZ	5yo	Gelding	1:56.6ms	Mile	26/11/2013	J B Willick	K J Pizzuto	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Spidergirl	4yo	Mare	1:56.8ms	1720	22/03/14	C A Alford	D Aiken	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Blitzthemcalder	4yo	Horse	1:56.9ms	1720	14/12/2013	C A Alford	D F Braun	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Brief Glance	6yo	Gelding	1:57.4ms	1720m	17/01/2014	A E Tubbs	A R Tubbs	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Pretty Sunday NZ	5yo	Filly	1:57.4ms	1720m	23/05/2014	R W Petroff	B A Lilley	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Shes An Image	5yo	Filly	1:57.4ms	Mile	8/03/2014	C W Lang	C W Lang	Bendigo (Vic)
Tender Don	9yo	Gelding	1:57.5ms	1720m	13/09/2013	G R Sugars	K M Males	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Brunelleschi	5yo	Gelding	1:57.7ms	1720m	4/07/2014	A E Tubbs	A E Tubbs	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Dream Defence NZ	5yo	Colt	1:57.7ms	Mile	22/10/2013	J B Willick	K J Pizzuto	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
On Thunder Road NZ	4yo	Gelding	1:57.7ms	Mile	1/07/2014	D R Hancock	D R Hancock	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Cardigan Boko EU	5yo	Colt	1:57.8ms	1720m	15/02/2014	C W Lang	C W Lang	Tabcorp Pk Melton
Earl Of Clevedon NZ	5yo	Gelding	1:57.8ms	Mile	5/07/2014	K A Turner	R D Commens	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
Illawong Magic	7yo	Gelding	1:57.8ms	1720m	11/07/2014	G R Sugars	R R Sugars	Tabcorp Pk Melton

## 2013/2014 FASTEST PERFORMERS - BY AGE/SEX - TROTTERS

	SEX	HORSE	RATE	DISTANCE	DATE	DRIVER	TRAINER	TRACK
OVERALL								
	Horse	Blitzthemcalder	1:56.9ms	1720m	14/12/13	C A Alford	D F Braun	Tabcorp Pk Melton
	Mare	Vics Cheval	1:56.2ms	1690m	14/03/14	D Aiken	D Aiken	Shepparton
	Gelding	Flying Isa NZ	1:53.2ms	Mile	4/03/14	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
4YO+								
	Horse	Blitzthemcalder	1:56.9ms	1720m	14/12/13	C A Alford	D F Braun	Tabcorp Pk Melton
	Mare	Vics Cheval	1:56.2ms	1690m	14/03/14	D Aiken	D Aiken	Shepparton
	Gelding	Flying Isa NZ	1:53.2ms	Mile	4/03/14	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
3YO								
	Colt	Bad Habbott NZ	1:58.8ms	Mile	15/07/14	J J Alchin	R D Commens	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Filly	My Valerie NZ	1:58.5ms	Mile	12/08/14	B P Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Gelding	Spidergrace	1:58.0ms	Mile	6/05/14	L E Crossland	L E Crossland	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
2YO								
	Colt	Twice As Much NZ	2:01.4ms	Mile	29/06/14	L A Mccarthy	A M Golino	Tabcorp Pk Menangle
	Filly	My Arya NZ	2:02.7ms	2240m	24/08/14	M Purdon	M Purdon	Tabcorp Pk Melton
	Gelding	Majestic Jess	2:02.3ms	1690m	21/05/14	D K Douglas	P G Manning	Maryborough

## 2013/2014 LEADING STAKESWINNERS - BY AGE/SEX - TROTTERS

	SEX	HORSE	STARTS	WINS	STAKEMONEY	MILE RATE
OVERALL						
	Horse	Our Twentyten Nz	6	4	\$107,500	2:01.1ms
	Mare	Spidergirl	12	8	\$153,512	1:56.8ms
	Gelding	Keystone Del NZ	17	11	\$437,689	1:53.9ms
4YO+						
	Horse	Blitzthemcalder	17	8	\$89,423	1:56.9ms
	Mare	Spidergirl	12	8	\$153,512	1:56.8ms
	Gelding	Keystone Del NZ	17	11	\$437,689	1:53.9ms
3YO						
	Colt	Our Twentyten Nz	6	4	\$107,500	2:01.1ms
	Filly	Claudys Princess	13	10	\$146,946	1:59.3ms
	Gelding	Spidergrace	13	7	\$46,258	1:58.0ms
2YO						
	Colt	Twice As Much NZ	3	2	\$9,115	2:01.4ms
	Filly	My Arya NZ	3	2	\$65,288	2:02.7ms
	Gelding	Eljaykay Phoenix	10	8	\$169,622	2:02.6ms



# GRAND CIRCUIT & TROTTHING MASTERS

Tabcorp Park Menangle Inter Dominion Crowd



A new wave of stars was ushered into the 2013/14 season. And for both gaits too.

The Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters series produced some brilliant performances by new and exciting equine athletes while the elder statesmen of the sport still stood tall again.

Established stars like champion Perth pacer Im Themightyquinn and Kiwi hero Terror To Love still hold plenty of power while the next generation of elite pacers was headed by the likes of Beautide and Christen Me who proved they will be dominant forces for quite some time to come.

The Trotting Masters underwent a major change of key personnel with a raft of new names and faces quickly rising to the top spearheaded by emerging Kiwi stars Stent and Master Lavros while Aussie performers included Keystone Del and My High Expectations.

As always with this elite racing, the action was fast, relentless and at times, just plain brutal.

But horsemen and punters alike wouldn't want it any other way because it clearly defines the legitimate stars of the sport while sorting the contenders from the pretenders.

This elite form of racing was made for the best, and only the best survive.

And it all augers well for a positive future.

Two pacers that made massive inroads on the Grand Circuit this season included Kiwi star Christen Me and the Tasmanian 'Terminator' Beautide who combined, won three of the eights legs available including the Inter Dominion, Miracle Mile and the Hunter Cup.

Both performed with great poise and class all season long and clearly represent a new class of star power for harness racing fans.

Christen Me, prepared in Christchurch by champion trainer Cran Dalgety and handled regularly by whiz-kid reinsman Dexter Dunn won the Grand Circuit title courtesy of his hard fought victory in the \$400,000 Hunter Cup at TABCORP Park, Melton while running placing's in the New Zealand Cup, Miracle Mile and the Victoria Cup.

The combination of Dalgety and Dunn needs no introduction considering the very successful partnership they have formed in recent years with numerous feature victories together but both are in awe of their latest stablestar.

Interestingly, both agreed it was best for Christen Me to bypass the Inter Dominion series in preference for more paddock time followed by a meticulous build-up for his return later this year.

With Christen Me back in New Zealand that paved the way for Beautide to snare the unique double of the Miracle Mile/Inter Dominion in the same season.

The last pacer to achieve this feat was Smooth Satin back in the 2001/02 season.

But the rise of Beautide this season goes beyond

his unique double, this a story of a new team embracing a new challenge head-on.

Bred in Tasmania by renowned horseman Barrie Rattray, Beautide was a deeply talented pacer who carved a strong reputation in the apple isle during his formative years before being transferred to another state and a new team.

Beautide was sent to Sydney where he would link with the internationally experienced couple of James Rattray and his partner Fia Svensson.

In his new surroundings and training routines, Beautide would thrive and quickly rise to stardom following his stunning Miracle Mile victory before capping his season with a huge exclamation mark with his Inter Dominion victory at TABCORP Park, Menangle.

The return of Beautide on the Grand Circuit is eagerly anticipated later this year.

Other winners on the Grand Circuit this season included Ideal Scott in the \$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship at Albion Park, Terror To Love claimed both the \$NZ650,000 New Zealand Cup and the \$NZ250,000 Auckland Cup, comeback pacer For A Reason claimed the \$400,000 Victoria Cup while Hokonui Ben led throughout in the \$400,000 WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park.

Christen Me finished the season with 240 points, 20 clear of Beautide while Terror To Love rounded out the top three.

And just like in the pacing division, the Australian Pacing Gold Trotting Masters also unearthed two new potential squaregaiters.

Kiwi duo Stent and Master Lavros have taken the mantle as our best trotters which has been dominated recently by the likes of I Can Doosit and Sundons Gift among others.

Stent was crowned the Trotting Master following a season of sublime trotting on both sides of the Tasman for his Christchurch based training/driving combination of Colin and Julie DeFilippi.

Raced by his breeder Trevor Casey, Stent has successfully made the transition from age group star to open class ace and that was highlighted by his victory in the \$100,000 Australian Trotting Grand Prix at TABCORP Park, Melton plus placing's in the Dominion Handicap, Glenferrie Farm Challenge and the Great Southern Star.



Fellow Cantabrian trotter Master Lavros is massive in so many ways; he has massive lung space through his giant frame and covers plenty of ground with his never-ending legs and that combination was very evident this season with the Mark Jones trotter winning the initial leg of the season in the \$NZ200,000 Dominion Handicap at Addington during Cup week before ending the season with a victory in the \$NZ148,000 Rowe Cup at Alexandra Park, Auckland.

The rise and rise of Master Lavros has been years in the making and Jones along with his owner/breeder Kypros Kotzikas have bided their time patiently in readiness for the elite racing.

With Stent and Master Lavros both having solid groundings this season, the future looks bright.

Another New Zealand bred trotter that made massive improvement this season is Keystone Del, the former Waikato based performer was transferred to the Sydney stables of Nicole Molander and the turnaround was almost instant.

Always blessed with ability, the Dr Ronerail gelding rocketed to glory by winning the \$200,000 Glenferrie Farm Challenge at TABCORP Park, Menangle and the \$300,000 Great Southern Star at TABCORP Park, Melton.

Keystone Del has quickly established himself as Australia's best trotter this season.

Superbowlcheerleader proved successful winning the other Trotting Master feature when taking out the \$NZ95,000 ANZAC Cup at Alexandra Park, Auckland for trainers Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen while handled by Blair Orange.

Stent finished the season with 260 points, 40 clear of his nearest rival Keystone Del.



Im Themightyquin wins the 2012 Inter Dominion with a Jubilant Gary Hall Junior in the sulky

# GRAND CIRCUIT & TROTTING MASTERS

## 10 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

Year	TOTAL GRAND CIRCUIT PRIZEMONEY	GRAND CIRCUIT WINNER	YEAR	TOTAL GRAND CIRCUIT PRIZEMONEY	GRAND CIRCUIT WINNER
2013	\$3,750,000	Im Themightyquinn NZ	2013	\$1,019,175	Vulcan
2012	\$4,019,000	Smoken Up NZ	2012	\$1,247,000	I Can Doosit NZ
2011	\$4,900,000	Im Themightyquinn NZ	2011	\$1,315,000	Sundons Gift NZ
2010	\$5,449,000	Monkey King NZ	2010	\$1,229,856	Sundons Gift NZ
2009	\$5,925,000	Blacks A Fake**	2009	\$1,350,000	One Over Kenny NZ
		Mr Feelgood USA**	2008	\$1,000,000	Mountbatten NZ
2008	\$4,096,490	Blacks A Fake	2007	\$1,075,000	A Touch Of Flair**
2007	\$4,110,000	Flashing Red			One Over Kenny NZ**
2006	\$4,805,000	Be Good Johnny	2006	\$750,000	Allegro Agitato NZ
2005	\$3,660,000	Elsu Nz	2005	\$900,000	Lyell Creek NZ
2004	\$3,275,000	The Falcon Strike NZ	2004	\$800,000	Take A Moment NZ





# STANDARD BRED UNHARNESSED

It started as a subdued hum, but the voice of Standardbred advocates in the wider equine world is rapidly escalating to deafening roar.

The humble and much maligned "trotter", once the bane of the collective pleasure horse community's existence, is riding on the crest of a publicity wave due largely to the deeds of a striking chestnut gelding known to the harness racing industry as Hollywood Dan.

In the show world, the seven-year-old son of P Forty Seven carries the somewhat more aristocratic title of MF Hollywood and his name is instantly recognisable, thanks to the tireless efforts of his mentor Kathleen Mullan.

Mullan has been a life-long advocate for the Standardbred's versatility and ridden potential, and elevated the breed to unprecedented new heights in 2013 when she participated in the nation's most revered equestrian turnout competition, The Garryowen, in Melbourne.

MF Hollywood's performance against showing's crème de la crème, which many suggested should have placed him higher than the final score sheet reflected, was a far cry from four dismal racetrack outings in 2011 which failed to earn a single dollar in prize money for connections.

It's ironic that three years down the track, his ambassadorial value is indefinable, and perhaps more accurately priceless.

The horse affectionately referred to by his owner as an equine rock star has certainly turned some well schooled and highly critical heads and attracted media coverage befitting the world's latest boy band sensation.

More importantly, he has reinforced - indeed drummed home - a message which has been spreading loud and wide throughout all levels of the Australian horse community.

Thanks to the united efforts of National and State harness racing authorities, industry participants across all sectors, pleasure Standardbred re-education, placement and riding groups, and devoted individuals, a consistently growing number of retired or unviable racing and breeding pacers and trotters are enjoying a "life after".

From an animal welfare perspective, the integrity of racing across all three codes has never before come under such intense public scrutiny in this country, with annual breeding figures and "wastage" statistics a key focus.

Harness Racing Australia is proud of the inroads which have been made to create opportunities for Standardbred horses outside the traditional racing environment, and is consistently working to nurture and support those championing for the breed and its untapped potential.

Through avenues such as Riding Develops Abilities, adult riding and pony clubs, and specialist Standardbred organisations in each of the principal harness racing States, horses once thought only suitable for the racetrack (or at very next best a wedding carriage) are carving a valuable niche as riding, driving and even therapy partners thanks to their temperament, intelligence and trainability.

Standardbred classes are appearing in unprecedented numbers on Agricultural Show programs including Royal schedules, stereotypical "box head, long back, square body" prejudices are disappearing, complimentary magazine articles are being published and doors which were previously deadlocked closed are opening up to retired harness horses, including the Victoria Police Mounted Branch which accepted its first Standardbred recruit in May 2014.

Mossdale Allan, a New Zealand-bred son of Live Or Die, enjoyed a moderate racing career notching four wins and 10 placings from 44 starts for just under \$23,000 in stake earnings.

The 16hh gentle giant known as "Bob" found his calling, however, in Police uniform under the astute guidance of specialist re-educator Nicole Tassone's acclaimed "Raising The Standards" program.

Bob blitzing a gruelling trial period which included smoke machines, drill training, working in heavy Melbourne CBD traffic and crowd control exercises at an A League soccer match, filming of the television program "The Block" and the famed Warrnambool Racing Carnival, and is poised for a long and distinguished service career.

Much like MF Hollywood within the hard-nosed, traditionalist showing world, the significance of Mossdale Allan's achievement to be accepted into an historic equine institution was matched only by the value of the mainstream media attention and positive promotion of Standardbreds it created.

As celebrated 19th century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said:-

"Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody."



Future Champion



# STATE REPORTS

Angela Chapman



## FINANCIAL

The significant areas which impacted on Harness Racing Victoria's (HRV) positive financial result (\$2 million profit) in 2013/14 were:

- i) A \$2 million increase in wagering revenue;
- ii) An increase in stakes of \$2.7 million;
- iii) Continued containment of industry costs.

## RECAP OF THE RACING YEAR

### i) Feature Races

Once again, HRV conducted several quality events (chronological order):

- The \$400,000 SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup was won in sensational fashion by For A Reason from Victoria's reigning Horse of the Year Caribbean Blaster, Christen Me with Miracle Mile winner Beautide fourth in a great race.
- The \$200,000 VHRSC Victoria Derby was won by New Zealand 3yo Our Maxim. Barry Purdon trained the quinella with Our Sky Major running second.
- The \$400,000 AG Hunter Cup, sponsored by Del Re National Food Group was again one of the best attended events for the year. New Zealander Christen Me edged out Caribbean Blaster, by a short half head.
- The Pryde's Easifeed Great Southern Star (GSS) was held in March 2014, in conjunction with the Breed For Speed trotting series. It was an exceptional night, with the heats and Final, combined worth \$400,000, being run on the same night. In a true staying test, NSW star Keystone Del won his heat and the Final, a credit to trainer Nicole Molander.
- For the second time, the Group 1 Finals for the Empire Stallions Vicbred Super Series were held over two nights in early July 2014. It was two spectacular nights of racing with six Group 1 trotting races beamed into France by Sky Racing and turning over in excess of \$1 million by French punters.
- The 2014 Breeders Crown was one of the great events for the year. Record off course wagering and a significant increase in on course takings indicated this day is one of the best on the Australasian calendar. Feedback from the day has been exceptional.

The stakes were spread with Victorian trained winners (4), NSW (3) and New Zealand (3) sharing in

the \$1.6 million on offer. The total stakes for the series was \$2.4 million.

### ii) Industry Awards

The Victorian Premierships for 2013/14 were:

- Metropolitan Driver – Chris Alford
- Metropolitan Trainer – David Aiken
- Victorian State Driver – Chris Alford
- Victorian State Trainer – Shayne Cramp
- Gordon Rothacker Medal – Graeme Lang

### iii) Industry Milestones

During the year there were several milestones recognised by HRV:

- Chris Alford drove his 5,000th winner, the second person to achieve the milestone in the Southern Hemisphere after Gavin Lang achieved the feat in 2012. Chris did it when he drove Macho Comacho to victory on Kilmore Cup Day in October 2013;
- Daryl Douglas drove his 4,500th winner in March 2014 behind Hayabusa Flyer at Mildura;
- Mildura trainer Shayne Cramp created history when he trained the winners of the entire card of eight races at Mildura on July 15, 2014.

## HRV IN THE COMMUNITY

HRV was once again prominent this year in charity and community projects:

- Tabcorp Park was the venue for the local area Relay For Life charity event, where many of our staff participated in the 24 hour event. Over \$80,000 was raised at Tabcorp Park for the Cancer Council;
- The annual Breed for Speed and Lyn McPherson Memorial charity race night (held in conjunction with the Great Southern Star) raised in excess of \$85,000 toward the Women's Cancer Foundation – Ovarian Cancer Institute;
- For the first time, the female drivers were proud to wear 'teal' pants in all races during March 2014 to raise awareness of Ovarian Cancer. The exercise was so successful it will be expanded in 2015 and form a great lead up to Great Southern Star night.
- HRV once again participated in Neurofibromatosis (NF) Awareness month in May in support of champion driver Chris Alford, whose daughter suffers from the disease. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised during the month, during which Chris wore the Children's Tumour Foundation colours on all his drives;
- In December 2013, HRV presented a cheque for \$50,000 to the City of Melton to be distributed to local community groups. Three schools were major beneficiaries of the local grants as well as 11 other community groups;
- HRV continues to join with the two Melton Rotary Clubs to raise funds for local community groups. In 2014 cheques were presented to three groups for a total of \$12,186.

## CONCLUSION

Despite many challenges, Harness Racing remains a vibrant industry providing both a livelihood and a proud participation to a large sector of the Victorian community across the State who are passionate about their sport of harness racing.

HRV actively seeks to establish a close working relationship with the State Government. Most recently the support has come through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) which provides funding for infrastructure and breeding initiatives, most notably the Vicbred Platinum series of races.

Ken Latta PSM  
Chairman – Harness Racing Victoria



The 2013/14 financial year was a watershed year for the industry in many ways. It is the second full year that the industry has enjoyed revenues from both the TAB and Corporate Wagering Operators and plans are well under way for the development of new tracks and training centres across the state. The 'green light' affair is behind us and we now move forward with one of the strongest integrity units across all codes in Australia.

February 2014 also marked another significant change for the harness racing industry. Graeme Campbell, Chairman for the past eight years, completed his term and retired from the Board. Graeme made an incredible contribution to the industry which is in far better shape as a result of his leadership.

Graeme led from the front on the significant issues that the industry faced during his time as Chairman including the SKY versus TVN imbroglio, Equine Influenza, the introduction of the Carnival of Cups concept, improvements to breeding schemes and the Breeders Challenge series, developing and improving relationships with the other codes, government and the industry, amalgamating two industry bodies in July 2009, the "Green Light" scandal, pursuing the race fields legislation, increasing prize money and developing plans and commencing the building of new infrastructure at various locations around the state. In all, an outstanding contribution.

Sadly, HRNSW also lost the services of Mr Sam Nati who resigned and left the organisation in August

2014 after five years as Chief Executive Officer. Like Graeme Campbell no one should underestimate the contribution that Sam has made to the industry. Sam faced most the above issues however he lived and breathed each on a daily basis and was charged with the responsibility of resolving or implementing each. To Sam, I thank you for your services to the NSW harness racing industry.

As we say goodbye to one Chief Executive Officer, I welcome John Dumesny to the role which he commenced with vigour on 1st September 2014. John comes into the role with over 30 years experience in the industry.

On a positive note, total prizemoney paid in FY2013/14 amounted to \$31.34 million and included \$0.365m from the Prizemoney Contingency Fund monies, \$0.415m Carnival of Cups funding, Breeders Challenge funding in excess of \$1.000m and club contributions in excess of \$4.800m. This funding matched that paid out in FY2012/13.

HRNSW finished the year with a published surplus of \$2,027,378. However after deducting the grant of \$1,351,492 for the land purchase at Tamworth and other minor adjustments the carried forward balance was \$695,351. This surplus has been earmarked in the FY2014/15 budget for prizemoney and club funding.

The 2014 Inter Dominion was another outstanding event. The revamped series was once again the result of a tripartite commercial accord between Destination NSW, the Principal Club (NSWHRC) and HRNSW.

The new format, first used for the 2013 series, provided two significant television broadcasts – the Sky 2 coverage of the Qualifying Heats and the Channel 9, Wide World of Sports, national telecast of the Grand Final. It was only the second time an Inter Dominion Grand Final had been seen live on free-to-air television for 25 years.

The win by Beautide in the Inter dominion was something very special taking into account that only 9 months earlier he was assessed as an M0. Special congratulations must go to trainer/driver James Rattary for his outstanding Inter Dominion win and also for the Miracle Mile and Len Smith Mile wins.

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

The NSW TAB remains HRNSW's predominate funding source however the percentage of total wagering revenue slipped to 78%. Total wagering revenue received was \$42.931m, up from \$41.141m received in FY 2012/13. However the percentage of revenues received from the TAB slipped from 83% to 78% with a corresponding increase from Corporate Wagering Operators.

The industry's female participants once again continued their great run of success over their male counterparts.



Amanda Turnbull provided two highlights for the year – firstly, for the second year in succession she won the state-wide Drivers Premiership with over 200 wins and secondly, for driving her 1,000th career winner; a feat achieved at the Peak Hill meeting in June. Amanda was the youngest and quickest driver to achieve this magnificent milestone.

We have some outstanding young female drivers in NSW and special congratulations to Lauren Panella who was the leading metropolitan driver with 49 wins and 148 state-wide winners.

Steve Turnbull continues to uphold the famous Turnbull family name by claiming a runaway win to take the state-wide Trainers Title with 211 wins. Steve's success can be attributed to his dedication and long hours of hard work.

Following the success of the partnership with the well known Australian rock artist Shannon Noll in 2013 HRNSW engaged country music star Adam Brand to perform at a number of Carnival of Cup meetings throughout the year. The concept once again proved to be a great success and provided strong awareness of the brand and harness racing.



Amanda Turnbull

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

The Breeders Challenge Nominators Bonus commenced in FY2013/14. The \$3,000 cash bonus was paid to the foal nominator upon a horse's first 2YO career penalty win. In FY2013/14 \$177,000 in bonuses were paid.

In FY2014/15 the bonuses will roll into 3YO's as well and it is expected that bonuses paid will increase to approximately \$500,000.

As outlined in previous Annual Reports HRNSW received \$25.5 million from the sale of Harold Park. The Board drew up an infrastructure program which included new facilities at Bathurst, Wagga, Tamworth and Menangle Park (training centre) and upgrades at Goulburn (completed), Penrith, Newcastle (lighting completed) and potentially Hawkesbury (as a training centre).

As I write this report construction of the new track

at Bathurst is nearing completion. It is expected that the track and related infrastructure will be completed by late September and the opening race meeting will be held there on Sunday 19 October.

Negotiations were completed in late 2013 for the purchase of a suitable site at Tamworth for a new track and final settlement of the land occurred in April 2014. Board and management are working closely with Tamworth Regional Council on all relevant documentation including re-zoning and the process will continue throughout FY2014/15.

Positive news is also coming out of the Riverina area where HRNSW has agreed to terms to purchase a suitable site at Wagga Wagga and exchanged contracts on 18 September 2014. As with Tamworth, both the Board and management are working with Council to lodge all necessary documentation to ensure that building approvals can be obtained as soon as possible. Providing approvals are received in time, construction of the new track should begin in early 2015.

Work on the Strategic Plan is well underway and the document will be released in the immediate future.

In summary, FY2013/14 was an incredibly busy period for HRNSW, however many challenges remain. As Chairman I am happy to say that I have a full agenda of items to undertake during my term. We will implement a new handicapping system on 1st September and the new media centre, which was launched in late August, will be gradually enhanced and updates released in stages over the coming year. These two items, together with the various track and infrastructure improvements, will ensure that I will be game fully employed over the coming twelve months.

The industry was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Ross Gigg earlier this year. Ross was an outstanding Chief Executive Officer who served the Newcastle Harness Racing Club for 22 years. He was a former Chairman of the Harness Racing Committee, President and Life Member of the Caduceus Club and latterly was involved in the development of junior drivers. Ross will be sadly missed by the harness racing industry.

I would also like to wish the best of luck to all our stakeholders, whether it be on the track or in the sale ring. I hope your investment in our industry pays you dividends.

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

I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members, Mr Chris Edwards, Mr Graham Kelly, Mr Alex Smith and Mr Rod Smith and of course, our previous Chairman Graeme Campbell. Thanks are also extended to the management team and staff at

HRNSW under the leadership of Chief Executive Sam Nati for their significant contribution over the past twelve months.

Rex Horne  
Chairman Harness Racing New South Wales



During the 2013/14 season Racing and Wagering Western Australia paid out more than \$22.9 million in stakes and a further \$937,622 in Westbred Bonus payments.

These monies were paid out across 282 meetings and 2,342 races which provided 23,801 racing opportunities for 1993 individual horses. This gives an average number of starts per starter of 11.94

The 23,087 starters were trained by 467 individual trainers (505 in 2013) with 56 trainers (55) having 100 or more starters for the season and 19 (23) having 200 or more starters for the season.

At the other end of the scale 122 trainers (121) had less than 10 starters during the season.

During the year a total of 232 WA trained mares earned at least one EPONA Bonus winning 540 races and generating \$275,229.49 in credits. Seven mares each earned the maximum credit amount of \$5,000 and a total of \$13,704 was paid out in claims to the owners of nine mares. The payout figures will increase dramatically in the coming season as more of the mares with credits are retired to stud.

Gary Hall became the first Western Australian trainer to train 200 winners in a season and he finished with a total of 214 winners (212 in WA and 2 in Queensland). His stable won stakes of \$3.138M which was more than \$340,000 clear of his closest rival and is a reflection of the level of stakemoney on offer in Western Australia.

Gary's son Gary Hall Junior was the State's Leading Driver with 174 winners and he finished well clear of Chris Voak (150) and Colin Brown (137).

Chris Lewis also passed the century mark reining 127 winners for the season – this is the 26th time Chris has passed the 100 winners in a season milestone and the 21st successive century of winners in a season.

A total of 252 individual drivers drove in races during the season (273 in 2013) with 51 having 100 or

more drives during the season (53) and 80 having less than 10 drives each (96).

RWWA funded the new \$266,000 Semaphore Board/Vision Screen which opened at Gloucester Park during the last half of the 2013/14 season and provides on-course patrons with state of the art vision and race replays as well as totalisator information.

The Michael Brennan trained Im Victorious assumed the Inter Dominion mantle previously worn so well by Im Themightyquinn and looked set to play a part in the finish of the 2014 Championship at Menangle before suffering a career-ending leg injury in the shadows of the post.

He had qualified for the final at Menangle after winning the heat run in Perth a month after he downed Bettors Fire and David Hercules in the Group One Fremantle Cup with new driver Gary Hall Junior at the reins.

A week after his Fremantle Cup win Im Victorious was a beaten odds-on favourite in the Group One WA Pacing Cup as the Gary Hall trained Hokonui Ben led throughout to beat stablemate Toretto and the Michael Brennan trained This Time Dylan. Hokonui Ben gave Clinton Hall his biggest win as a driver.

The State's premier race for mares, the Group One Mares Classic was taken out by the Chris King trained and Chris Voak driven Leda McNally which beat Famous Alchemist and Sensational Gabby.

Two-year-old racing saw a new trend with a number of young horses purchased in New Zealand as yearlings racing with good success.

Heading this group was the filly Tricky Styx which won the Group One Diamond Classic against the fillies and she beat the colts in winning the Group Two Champagne Classic for Northam trainer Jesse Moore. Moore paid just \$NZ 5,000 for Tricky Styx at the New Zealand Premier Sale.

The emergence of a couple of first season Western Australian based sires in Advance Attack and Cams Fool provided a fillip for local studs.

Advance Attack, a well-performed full-brother to leading sire Courage Under Fire, was represented by a crop of just eight foals. Remarkably five of them raced and two of them in Persistent Threat and Massive Attack were winners in sub-1:58 times. Persistent Threat won the Group One WA Sales Classic for colts for trainer John Graham.

Cams Fool also had a first crop of just eight foals with two starters and the smart filly Sea Me Smile 2:00.0 \$44,935 being placed in two Group classics.

Late in the season Beaudiene Boaz, purchased for top dollar as winner of the Harness Jewels earlier in the season, came to Perth and won the State's premier 2yo race the Group One Golden Slipper for trainer Gary Hall.

Three Blind Mice caused an upset in the Group One WA Derby leading all the way for driver Matt White and trainer Barry Howlett at \$17.80 and

downing the fancied Gary Hall trained trio of J'Eyre Crusher, Machtu and Elegant Christian.

The Group One WA Oaks saw Libertybelle Midfrew continue her dominance of the female ranks with her fifth consecutive win in WA after being brought from New Zealand.

Victorian trainer Dean Braun continued his recent domination of the Group One McInerney Ford 4yo Classic bringing up a third consecutive win in the race with Chilli Palmer which unleashed a sensational sprint to win. Braun trained Chancellor Cullen and Mustang Mach to wins in the race in 2013 and 2012.

Another Victorian based trainer Daniel Jack showed the benefits of an early trip west with Nowitzki which arrived two months prior to the rich series of 4yo races and won both the Group One Golden Nugget Championship and the Group Two 4yo Championship.

Jeff Ovens  
Chairman Racing and Wagering Western Australia



The 2013-14 season marked a year of change for the Queensland harness racing industry. From the new wagering deal with TattsBet to the announcement of major infrastructure upgrades at Albion Park and some outstanding performances by our participants, the industry finished the year on a high.

After serving as a member of the Queensland Harness Racing Board since its inception in May 2013, I replaced Mr Brad Steele as chairman in May 2014. I bought my first standard bred in 2007 and developed a passion for the sport that inspired me to become involved in its administration a few years later. It is an exciting time for the harness racing industry and I am pleased to be able to contribute to its future in Queensland through this role.

From an industry perspective, the past year was highlighted by the new wagering deal struck between Racing Queensland, the State Government and TattsBet in June. The 30-year deal ensures the sustainability of the Queensland racing industry, providing existing participants with the confidence to continue investing and attracting new participants to the sport.

Under the deal, TattsBet will contribute an additional \$850 million minimum to the industry

throughout the life of the deal, which will also give Racing Queensland a share of sports wagering revenue for the first time.

The year also brought the news that a new Albion Park grandstand would be built in 2015 as part of the State Government's Industry Infrastructure Strategy. Albion Park is the spiritual home of Queensland harness racing and the addition of the re-developed grandstand ensures it will continue to play an important role in the industry's future. Unfortunately, the Parklands Complex on the Gold Coast was closed during the year to make way for the 2018 Commonwealth Games Village. Racing Queensland is currently working with the club as it pursues a new site to house the club, which has been an important part of the industry for many years.

On the racing front, we saw the resurgence of grass trotting in the state when the Queensland Grass Trotting Series launched in Toowoomba, before making visits to Kilcoy and Beaudesert. The picnic atmosphere introduced a whole new generation of fans to the support and the meetings were very well-received at each venue. As a result of the success, the series will be returning for the 2014-15 season.

Queensland participants were again at the forefront of the national scene in 2013-14, namely Grant Dixon, who cemented his status as one of the best in the business with his third consecutive J.D. Watts Award as the leading trainer in the country.

The Metropolitan season also provided some great highlights, including Kylie and Vicki Rasmussen's outstanding achievement of claiming the driver and trainers' premierships in the same year. The real stars of the sport, our horses, were also in great form with Forever Gold, Charming Allie, Avonnova and Field Officer all making worthy claims for the horse of the year.



Racing at Inverell

One of the most promising aspects of the Queensland industry is the high rate of participation among young people. With this in mind, 10 of the state's top young drivers were selected to join a mentoring program called the Young Guns, which was the brainchild of Mr Kevin Seymour. A hugely generous supporter of harness racing in Queensland, Mr Seymour also waived the standing fee for his stallion Mr Feelgood during the year in a huge boost for the state's breeding stocks.

Finally, the Queensland Winter Harness Carnival was one of the most successful in recent memory as Western Australian Superstar Im Themightyquinn headlined an all-star cast of interstate raiders to make their way to Brisbane. The Gary Hall Snr-trained superstar captured the hearts of Queenslanders when he won the Group 1 Sunshine Sprint - Blacks A Fake double in a highlights reel that also featured Suave Stuey Lombo, Forever Gold and Bling It On.

In conclusion, with the new wagering deal in place and key infrastructure projects scheduled, the future is looking bright for the Queensland Harness Racing Industry. And it is looking even brighter thanks to the ongoing support of Harness Racing Australia that of our partners, TattsBet and SKY Channel. I would also like to thank BOTRA, AFTER and SAQ for their hard work through the year and finally, our participants for making harness racing the great sport that it is.

Greg Mitchell  
Racing Queensland Limited



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

Increasing national turnover on Tasmanian racing product is therefore one of Tasracing's key responsibilities.

Wagering turnover on Tasmanian product grew by an impressive 10.4 per cent or \$41.9 million in 2013/14 to \$445.6 million, compared to last financial year (\$403.7 million).

It is a significant result, made even more so when you consider that this double-digit percentage increase in turnover followed 7.7 per cent growth last financial year and an 8.4 per cent increase the previous financial year. In fact, wagering turnover has grown by \$100 million, or nearly 29 per cent, over the past three financial years.

The harness code contributed 11.5 per cent growth, taking its annual turnover figure to \$78.7 million. This was achieved despite a 13 per cent fall in starter numbers because of extreme weather conditions in late winter and early spring in northern Tasmania.

The provision of high-level form comments and analysis accessible through the Tasracing and Harness Racing Australia web sites continued to be very popular with punters. This enhanced form

information helped increase website traffic and wagering growth. Social media channels have been utilised to increase form distribution and engagement with younger audiences.

The racing highlight of the 2013/14 Tasmanian harness season was the outstanding national performances by Beautide and his trainer/driver James Rattray.

The gelding won two of Australasia's biggest harness races – the \$750,000 TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion and the \$750,000 SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile. No other Tasmanian horse has achieved this double.

Beautide's astonishing season was appropriately recognised when he was named the Australian Horse of the Year, the Australian Pacer of the Year and the Aged Pacing Horse-Gelding of the Year.

The strength of the Tasmanian breeding industry was enhanced further when three-year-old Barynya was successful in the \$150,000 Victorian Oaks and named Australia's 3YO Pacing Filly of the Year.

The first Tasmanian Racing Hall of Fame Dinner was incorporated into the annual Tasracing Harness Awards dinner. A combination of 36 horses and people were inducted into the Tasracing Harness Hall of Fame.

The 16 horses were Ayr, Barrington Lass, Chamfers Star, Evicus, Flashing Red, Globe Derby, Golden Alley, Halwes, Liza Storm, Logan Derby, Milky Way, Raider, Sinbad Bay, Springfield Globe, Thorate and Torado Hanover.

The 20 people were Tom Amott, Arthur Barker, Eric Bean, Peter Cooley, Ricky Duggan, George Johnson, Webb Jones, Bert Lewis, Doug Martin, Len Moriarty, Bill Oliver, Graham Peck, Terry Peck, Bob Pringle, Barrie Rattray, Jack Stamford, Edgar Tatlow, Jim Weaver, Neville Webberley and Tas Williams.

Edgar Tatlow and his horses were honoured with four of the 36 inductions – Edgar Tatlow himself, Ayr, Globe Derby and Raider. In addition, the Tatlow stallion Globe Derby sired two other inductees – Logan Derby and Springfield Globe

Breeders welcomed the incentives offered by Tasracing for harness breeding in 2013/14. The Breeders Coupon is a key component and, after industry consultation, Tasracing extended the coupon to include all two and three-year-old earnings in Tasmania for Tasbred horses. Breeders are allocated 10 per cent on top of stakes money to be used for breeding-related activities.

A new breeding incentive developed in 2013/14 was the Tasbred Owners Breeding Incentive (TOBI). TOBI provides \$1,000 to the owners of every Tasbred winner in Tasmania aged four-years-old or older. The \$1,000 can be used for breeding-related activities or to assist with the purchase of Tasmanian yearlings.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2013/14 with:

- A Tasbred Bonus distribution of \$228,000.
- Abolition of foal notification fees, saving breeders more than \$35,000.
- Allocation of \$300,000 to stakes for Tasbred heats and finals.
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments of more than \$115,000.

The Harness Industry Forum (HIF) met quarterly in 2013/14. Regular topics covered at HIF meetings include safety, ongoing breeding support, race programming, marketing and wagering results. Tasracing would like to thank all HIF participants for their time and contribution to this important forum that provides an opportunity for direct interaction and consultation between Tasracing and industry.

In May 2014, the Burnie Harness Racing Club (BHRC) held its first meeting under lights. The \$700,000 lights project was supported by the Burnie City Council, the Tasmanian Government, BHRC and Tasracing.

The 2014 Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale was conducted at Inveresk in February. A review of the 2014 sale by the Harness Yearling Sale Working Group, which comprises top Tasmanian breeders and Tasracing, resulted in a change for 2015. A sale facility will be made available through Tasracing's website and be conducted through January and February. The Tasbred Breeders Coupon and TOBI can be used to purchase yearlings.

There were 16 feature races in Tasmania in 2013/14 with stakes money of \$15,000 or more, including the \$40,000 Tasmania Cup and Easter Cup, and the \$25,000 Devonport Cup.

Barrie and Gareth Rattray continued their



Paul Medhurst, Tony Pacey, Bro Town, Lynne Medhurst and Mark Yole

dominance of local training and driving titles. Barrie won his 16th training premiership while Gareth won his ninth consecutive driving award, putting him four behind Jack Stamford in the contest for the most Tasmanian driving titles.

Dylan Ford won his second Junior Driver award. Dylan also represented Tasmania in the 2014 Australasian Young Drivers Championship and finished second after winning three of the 10 heats.

#### 2013/2014 AWARD WINNERS

Leading Female Trainer Award – Natalee Emery, Erin Hollaway, Kate Macleod

Junior Driver Award – Dylan Ford

Leading Driver Award – Gareth Rattray

Leading Trainer Award – Barrie Rattray

2Yo Filly of the Year Award – Fawzia

2Yo Colt or Gelding Of The Year – Jerrys Jet

3Yo Filly of the Year Award – Barynya

3Yo Colt or Gelding of the Year Award –

Resurgent Spirit

Tasmanian Mare of the Year Award – Laterron

Tasmanian 4Yo & Older Horse or Gelding of the Year Award – Beautide

Tasmanian Broodmare of the Year Award – Gorse Bush

Tasmanian Horse of the Year Award – Beautide

Halwes Medal (Ricky Duggan

Young Achiever (Sponsored By Botra Tasmania) – Todd Rattray

The Edgar Tatlow Medal – Kevin Gillies

Brian Speers

Chairman Tas Racing



The South Australian 2013/14 racing year has been a successful year for the Code with a number of initiatives that has improved the Harness Racing position in South Australia. Notwithstanding this comment there are still many issues which threaten the well-being and future of our industry.

Harness Racing in SA conducted 170 meetings throughout the year down from 204 the previous year due mainly to the decision to withdraw racing on Tuesday nights. During the year HRSA paid out \$4.590m in stake money maintaining prize money levels paid out the previous year. HRSA's market share of pari-mutuel wagering had declined to 12.02% in 2013 – the lowest level since the industry was corporatized in 2000. I am pleased to advise that despite the reduction of race meetings we have been able to increase our market share to 12.57% arresting the spiraling downward trend. This is the first time in five years that market share has improved on the previous year.

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

- Discussions with Tattsbet to introduce fixed odds betting on all SA Harness Racing meetings. Following a meeting with Tattsbet Bet CEO Robbie Cook in October last year we were able to put the case for SA Harness to have fixed odds markets on our events. This commenced in January at Globe Derby Park with the SA Summer Carnival and by March all SA meetings were afforded fixed odds betting markets. As a result we have seen many of the SA harness racing punters who were using other state TAB's and Corporate Bookmakers return to using Tattsbet.
- New wagering website ([www.trotsguide.com.au](http://www.trotsguide.com.au)) - this has also been extremely well received and includes speed maps, race fields, race trials, racing articles, and detailed form analysis for every horse in every harness race in SA. This website is now regarded as one of the most informative wagering websites in Australia.
- New wagering booklet - which is being distributed to selected Pubtab outlets across Adelaide, and ultimately will be 'rolled out' to the majority Pubtab's and TAB agencies in regional South Australia.
- The support from Tattsbet in increasing pari-mutuel jackpots each week on SA Harness racing.

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

- The SAHRC Summer Carnival was run at Globe Derby Park in January 2014 and again attracted a wonderful crowd (5,500) and a host of prominent interstate trainers. In what was described as one of the best races seen this season Australia wide, the Andy Gath trained, Kate Gath driven pacer Caribbean Blaster was able to down the crowd favourite in Smoken Up to win the \$125,000 Betezy SA Cup. Smoken Up was brave in defeat beaten less than a head and was attempting to become the first



Narrabri Junior Racing

horse in SA Cup history to win five SA Cups having equaling the feat of four Cup wins achieved by Gammalite back in the early 1980's.

- The Southern Cross series was revised and revamped this year with changes to the format and structure. \$8,000 Heats, \$12,000 Semi-finals and \$60,000 Finals for two and three year olds for each sex were run at Globe Derby Park in the June, July, August period. For the first time the decision was made to run the Southern Cross Finals on a Sunday afternoon and this proved extremely popular attracting an excellent crowd. The Southern Cross Series provide SA owners and breeders the opportunity to share in significant prize money for the two and three year olds that are eligible for the Series and continues to be an important foundation for SA racing.
- The Country Cups throughout the year were well supported with Gawler, Port Pirie, Mt Gambier, Victor Harbor, Whyalla, Strathalbyn and Kadina all conducting feature Cup events which were well supported and keenly contested events.
- The BOTRA Golden Nursery night was brought forward to May this year and again proved to be an outstanding night for owners of juvenile horses and all credit to the BOTRA committee who raised in excess of \$50,000 in sponsorship to host the night and provide attractive and substantial prize money.
- The SA Square Trotters Carnival held in May/June provided an entertaining three day carnival series culminating with the SA Trotters Derby and the time honored Gramel series.

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

- Continued restructuring of SA harness racing dates and prize money.
- Implementation of the Integrity Report recommendations
- Increased sponsorship for the Harness Code
- Revamped Southern Cross Series
- Expansion of the SAMOS Breeding scheme
- SA Harness Racing wagering initiatives

In early 2014, we formally farewelled our Chairman of Stewards, Steve Mulcay, who returned to New Zealand to take up a new position as a Steward with the Racing Integrity Unit. Following a very detailed and thorough process undertaken by the selection panel, we appointed Barbara Scott as the new Chair of Stewards for South Australian Harness Racing. This was also an historic appointment, as it was first time in Australian racing history that a woman has been appointed to the position of Chair of Stewards with a racing code.

In February 2014, the SAHRC Committee formally advised HRSA that they were concluding the current management agreement with HRSA. HRSA had been providing a significant level of free management support to the Club in the areas of general management, finance, racing operations, sponsorship (jointly funded) and administrative support. The SAHRC appointed a new part time interim General Manager, who commenced on 17 March, and assumed responsibility for all Club operations at the venue. HRSA will continue to offer support as and when requested.

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

The next 12 to 18 months will see the SA Racing Industry begin negotiations with Tattsbet and the State Government with respect to the exclusivity arrangements for TAB to operate in this State. This is a one off opportunity to increase financial support to the Racing Industry in this State. The three codes are closely working together to negotiate the best outcome for the SA Racing Industry.

Mark J. Carey  
Chairman Harness Racing South Australia





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