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# Chairman's Message



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With the support of the HRA Members, 2023 will mark the inaugural running of the world's richest harness race - The TAB Eureka.

While acknowledging the industry will always face challenges, this year has been a good one, and in many ways, full of watershed moments in Australian harness racing history.

With the support of the HRA Members, 2022 marks the first time HRA has commercialised the Australian Trottina Stud Book.

With the support of the HRA Members, 2023 will mark the inaugural running of the world's richest harness race - The TAB Fureka.

With the support of the HRA Members, HRA entered into its largest ever single commercial agreement with Tabcorp.

With the support of the HRA Members, the National Ratings system continued to evolve, with the highest foal crop to race start utilisation ratio in our sports history.

With the support of the HRA Members, HRA has developed the functionality to provide real-time traceability of all Standardbreds from service to retirement.

With the support of the HRA Members, HRA's Welfare Strategy has been assisted with an additional increase of \$5.75 million dollars in welfare related spending across the 6 States combined, with the equivalent of 24 new staff employed in welfare related roles.

With the support of the HRA Members, HRA has participated and mounted robust responses to Government working groups and reviews at all levels to protect the industry from unnecessary outside intervention.

With the support of the HRA Members, the Grand Circuit, Trotting Masters and Group Racing Guidelines have been overhauled.

With the support of the HRA Members, HRA continues to evolve, providing central service options including naming, foal registration and Stallion Registration functions.

It is also worth reflecting on the wagering performance of the industry that broke all industry records, with All Sources Turnover reaching \$3.624B - a 6% rise and biggest increase since 2018, excluding the 2020 Covid spike.

The fixed odds phenomenon continues to drive this, increasing 16% for the year. There had been a guery on the sustainability of the trend post a 52% jump in 2020, but on top of steady growth last year of 3%, to reach those heights must provide confidence to the industry that administrators are on the right path.

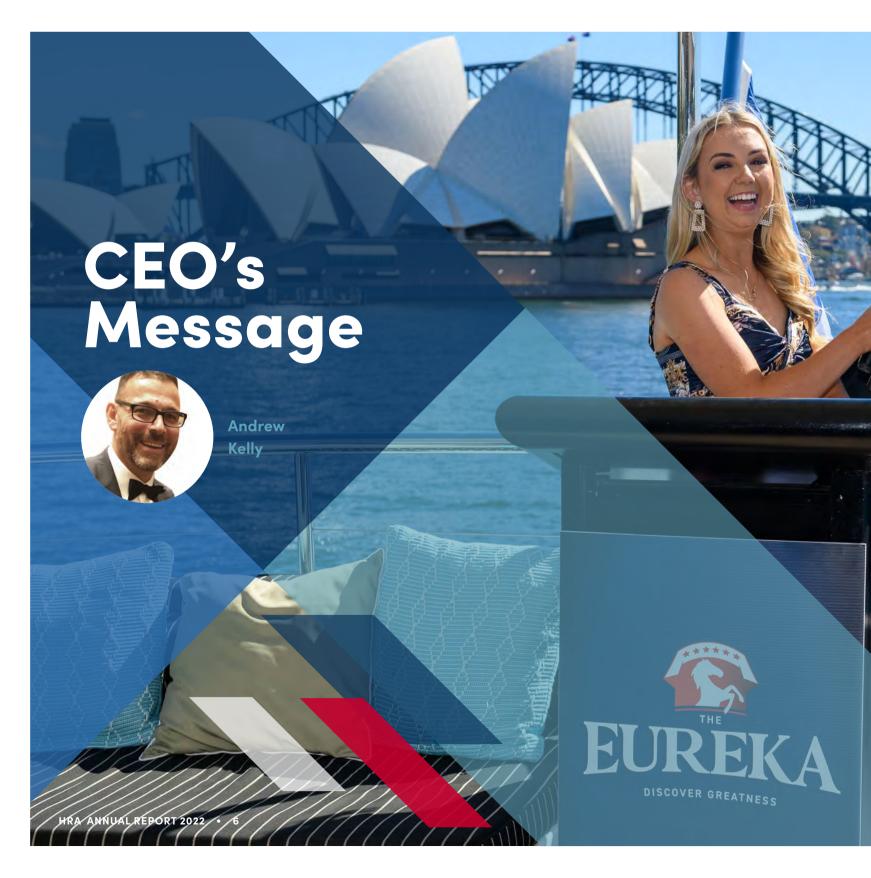
I would also like to use the occasion of the AGM to acknowledge the outstanding industry contribution the wonderful lady and powerhouse, Dr Patricia "Trish" Ellis, provided to our industry. She provided unbelievable support, guidance and representation literally until the time of her death when she was assisting our Japanese Encephalitis Virus response. I am proud to announce that Dr Ellis has today been awarded a thoroughly deserved HRA Distinguished Service Award, joining Mr John Dumesny (J.P Stratton), Mr Duncan McPherson (Distinguished Service) and Mr Denis Smith (Meritorious Service) on this

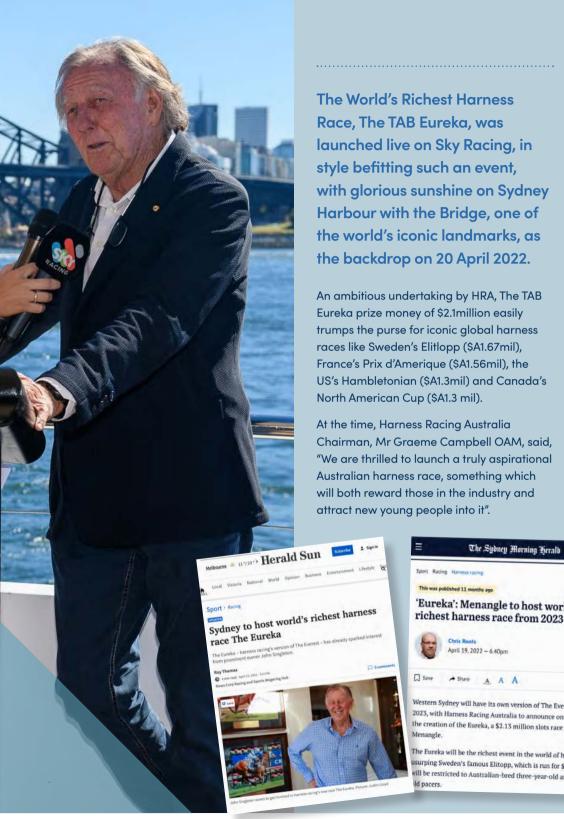
year's Honours List.

As always, it has been an honour to serve as your Chair. This, my second year of a three-year term has been made all the more enjoyable by a well-functioning HRA Executive, Membership, Honorary Committee and Staff. The humble HRA office may be small in number, but it is big on care and ambition for our industry.

Thank you one and all.

**Graeme Campbell** OAM / Chairman





The World's Richest Harness Race. The TAB Eureka. was launched live on Sky Racing, in style befitting such an event, with glorious sunshine on Sydney Harbour with the Bridge, one of the world's iconic landmarks, as the backdrop on 20 April 2022.

An ambitious undertaking by HRA, The TAB Eureka prize money of \$2.1million easily trumps the purse for iconic global harness races like Sweden's Elitlopp (\$A1.67mil), France's Prix d'Amerique (\$A1.56mil), the US's Hambletonian (\$A1.3mil) and Canada's North American Cup (\$A1.3 mil).

At the time, Harness Racing Australia Chairman, Mr Graeme Campbell OAM, said, "We are thrilled to launch a truly aspirational Australian harness race, something which will both reward those in the industry and attract new young people into it".

This was published 11 months ago

April 19, 2022 - 6,40pm

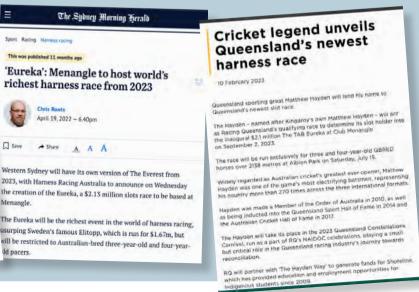
The Sydney Morning Berald

There is a real sense of optimism around Australian harness racing now, and what better way to give that further momentum than by launching the richest (harness) race in the world.

The TAB Eureka is unashamedly designed to grow the Australian harness racing industry. It is part of our 'Advance Australia' strategy to encourage owners and participants to buy Australian-born yearlings ... drive opportunities for local sires, generate external investment in the industry and identify new income streams," Campbell explained.

The interest was palpable and instant!

An unprecedented naming rights Sponsorship agreement with Tabcorp headlined third-party investment in the event. At the same time, publicity reached heights not seen in the industry for decades, with major daily newspapers running feature articles, and radio and TV have carried regular coverage since the announcement.



### CEO's Message

Like thoroughbred racing's hugely successful The Everest, The TAB Eureka is a Slot Race, and with only 10 Slots available, the Expression of Interest campaign was oversubscribed, with individuals and syndicates alike clamouring up to secure a coveted Slot despite the hefty price tag of \$100,000 per slot, for each of the next 3-years – paid in advance.

A Host Partnership with Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) and Club Menangle (CM) was also negotiated during the year, assuring a home for the event at Club Menangle for the first three years of its life, with the inaugural running on 2 September 2023.

As part of the push to continue to promote and reward the domestic industry, the race itself will be run over the middle distance of 2400m, is restricted to Australian Bred three and four-year-old pacers, with a preferential barrier draw based on age and sex, and bonus payments of \$10,000 for the Breeder of each runner and a \$30,00 bonus for the first Colt over the line.

With ten Slot Holders funding half of the prizemoney, HRA also announced it would fund the majority of the remainder from the introduction of a new Stallion Registration Fee, which took effect on 1 September 2022. This Fee, expected to raise close to \$900,000, was introduced after exhaustive consultation with State Breeding Associations and Studs. Not surprisingly, the concept had some noisy detractors; however, throughout the consultation period, and despite numerous requests, no realistic alternatives were pitched to HRA. Further, a determined and coordinated campaign to halt its introduction was unable to persuade the HRA Membership, who, in a significant display of solidarity, unanimously voted for its introduction at a meeting in January 2022.

The diligent work of HRA Members, who administer the industry to benefit the majority of participants, was also exhibited throughout the year.

A remarkable increase of more than \$12.5 million in total prize money paid out headlined many highlights for Australian harness racing the 2022 season.

The nine per cent increase from \$139,353,472 in 2021 to \$151,989,477 last year is the greatest year-on-year jump in 13 years, and even that came in the 2008/09 season, off the back of the devastating Equine Influenza outbreak in Australia.

Interestingly, while the national rating

system has been a major and somewhat controversial talking point, the statistics since it was introduced in the 2018/19 season are impressive.

Since then, the average prize money earned per starter has jumped a significant 20 per cent from \$12,960 to \$15,613. The \$15,613 earned per starter is the highest of all time.

Vitally, our Standardbreds are racing more often now, too – both more of them and more often, as crop utilisation continues to improve. The average starts per horse in 2022 was 13.5 – the highest since statistics started being recorded in 1993/94 when it was just 9.8.

And the number of individual winners soared in the '22 season to 6023. That is the most since the 2012/13 season.

Dig deeper, and the spread of prize money earned per starter has changed and grown massively since the inception of the national ratings system.

In season 2018/19, there were 19.69% of starters who earned \$0–999. Last year that was down to 15.99%.

The most significant growth has come in the bands from \$10,000–19,999, \$20,000–29,999 and \$30,000–39,999.

Since 2018/19, they have grown from:

- 20.02% to 21.72% (\$10,000-19,999)
- 9.24% to 11.78% (\$20,000-29,999)
- 3.94% to 5.64% (\$30,000-39,999)

In fact, more than 46 per cent of those horses who raced in 2022 earned greater than \$10,000.

This was all on the back of crucial record wagering growth.

### THE SLOT HOLDERS



## THE WORLD'S RICHEST HARNESS RACE





















SEYMOUR





In 2022, total wagering topped \$3.64 billion, representing a 25 per cent growth in the past five years. International export growth was slower at 1.7%, but returns to Clubs grew almost twice that, at 3.21%, which converts to \$4.49m in revenue.

Despite the fears of a "Covid normalisation" impacting 2022, total wagering grew by six per cent year-on-year.

Part of this is driven by the reduction in odds-on favourites (shorter than \$2) since the introduction of the national ratings system.

Since its introduction in 2018, the number

of favourites at \$1.90 or shorter has been slashed by 25 per cent.

A deeper dive shows the number of really prohibitively short favourites (\$1.30 or shorter) has been reduced even further – by 33 per cent since 2018.

The call for more opportunities for mares to protect the breeding industry was also heard, with an additional 100 mares-only races being run in 2022 compared to the previous season. Non-starter Mares in the Stud Book have fallen, while the total number of mares winning races has risen. This includes the 2 to 4 win, 5 to 10 win and 11 to 20 win category ranges.

After a period of decline, 2022 also saw a welcome growth in the number of licensed harness racing drivers, up from 1867 to 1874.

These achievements are worth championing, as they paint a different picture than most in the industry or on the racing fringes would appreciate. To illustrate these further, an Infographic below has been developed to demonstrate the major highlights.



Further analysis and comparison with the UET (European Union of Trotting, which consists of 20 member countries) and two of Europe's most important jurisdictions, France and Sweden, highlights the enormity of achievement in a different way.

#### Key comparative stats:

Number of Races (YoY)	Horses Starting (YoY)	Foals (2022)	Stallions (2022)	Mares Served (2021)
UET -16.22%	UET -11.57	France 9434	France 367	France 12710
France -1.47%	France -9.41%	Sweden 2750	Sweden 151	Sweden 4356
Sweden -1.44%	Sweden -4.04%	Australia 3198	Australia 181	Australia 5018
Australia +7.2%	Australia -0.9%			

#### Prizemoney Growth Per Race (5 Year Average)

France -0.28% Sweden +3.99% Australia +18%

Prizemoney Per Horse (2022)	Prizemoney Growth Per Horse
France €16321	France +8.46%
Sweden €8509	Sweden +6.82%
Australia €9953 (AUD15,613)	Australia +17%

#### **Total Prizemoney**

UET €427,705,199 France €246,481,000 Sweden €83,856,864 Australia €96,941,237 (AUD\$152million)

### Foals – 5 Year Average

France -8.38% Sweden 0.00% Australia -5.6%

Drug Testing – Total Tests	Races	Per Starter
France 16,027	France 145.45%	France 1.06
Sweden 3554	Sweden 42.46%	Sweden 0.31
Australia 30,763	Australia 208%	Australia 3.16
Manager Tabel	F. V A	

Wagering – Total	5 Year Average
UET €6,881,856,728	UET -5.71%
France €4,678,000,000	France +0.60%
Sweden €1,160,000,000	Sweden -20.27%
Australia €2,311,036,390	Australia +24.8%
(AUD\$3.63billion)	

Reports such as this are incomplete without mentioning the industry's strides in continuously improving equine health, welfare and traceability outcomes for our Standardbred horses. As the website dedicated to educating and informing governments, media, and the community says, www.thereisnofinishline.com.au.

If you are reading this and you are not familiar, I encourage you to take a look.

Health, welfare and traceability of horses are a shared responsibility across the entire harness racing industry - and the great work and support for these ideals by the industry participants need special

acknowledgement. The infographic below demonstrates the recent industry performance in major areas.

It was also pleasing that the HRA Membership unanimously endorsed the introduction of Horse Status regulations into the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR's).

### HARNESS RACING IN AUSTRALIA **HEALTH AND WELFARE STATS**

#### **TRACEABILITY**



#### LIFE AFTER RACING

Horses notified as Retired during 2021

AFTER RETIRING FROM OF STANDARDBREDS GO ON TO EQUESTRIAN PLEASURE RIDING OR COMPANION HOMES 27.3% OF RETIRED STANDARDBREDS GO ON

### 14.720 RACE STARTS 130,519

9.819 INDIVIDUAL STARTERS

CONTINUOUS WHIP RULE MODIFICATION IN THE WORLD

INTRODUCED 1 SEP 2020 WRIST ONLY ACTION AND PROHIBITION ON OVERT FORCE



#### **BANNED SUBSTANCES** :2021

SEASON O DRUGS

EACH INDIVIDUAL STARTER IS TESTED THE EQUIVALENT OF 3.13 TIMES PER RACING SEASON

18% MORE TESTS CONDUCTED SINCE 2015/16 SEASON, LESS POSITIVES



#### **INJURIES 2021** RACE INCIDENT MORE RACES MORE STARTERS LESS INJURIES OVER 14 700 HARNESS PACES ARE CONDUCTED ACROSS AUSTRALIA EACH YEAR WITH AN INCIDENT/INJURY RATE OF 0.51% AND FATAL ACCIDENTS AT JUST 0.003%

thereisnofinishline.com.au

Following several years of voluntary application and continuous review, these Horse Statuses will become mandatory in 2023. In simple terms, the connections of horses will need to provide updates on the whereabouts and activities of each individual horse within specified timeframes.

It is understood that this brings additional administrative burden on industry participants; however, it is important. The benefits and protections this provides the industry are hard to quantify other than to say that without it, the industry and individual participants are vulnerable.

These new AHRR's will also bring about opportunities for more intuitive race programming, with Racing Departments having access to real-time data, including demographics of the active racing population and location to program races.

As we turn the page on all that was achieved in 2022 and look to the year ahead, three words The TAB Eureka is set to continue to dominate industry discussions as excitement and speculation builds with Slot Holders negotiating with connections of horses to take direct aim at the \$2.1m race, and \$1m first prize.

The TAB Eureka to one side, with record investment in the sport continuing across the nation with massive infrastructure plans, new tracks, futurity enhancements, breeding bonuses, the establishment of new races and prizemoney enhancements, the future of the sport looks bright. The industry should have every confidence in the administrators and regulators to continue to push through the noise.

Equine welfare is also set to remain at the forefront. Several Government Reviews and Reports are expected to be tabled early in 2023, including the implementation of recommendations from the National Horse Traceability Working Group (NHTWG) and Land Transport for Horses review. The industry response to these, along with the increasing community expectations, will need to be carefully managed, as they will underpin the changing landscape and social licence under which the industry currently operates.

Before the curtain entirely falls on 2022, I would like to thank the outstanding staff at Harness Racing Australia (HRA). Your work ethic, diligence and care for the sport never ceases to amaze and inspire – thank you.

To the HRA Executive, led by Chair, Mr Graeme Campbell OAM, and the entire HRA Membership, thank you all for entrusting and supporting me in this role. The collegiate and democratic approach to all matters provides the opportunity to be a well-functioning, strategic and responsive organisation which is well aware of the challenges and works hard for uniform and creative responses. While a great pleasure, it also continues to be a humble honor to serve you and the wider industry.

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Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive
Keeper of the Australian Trotting Stud Book









KING Of Swing's fleeting appearance on the 2022 **Australian Pacing Gold Grand** Circuit was enough to snare him a slice of history.

Despite contesting and winning just two legs of the series, King Of Swing was the Grand Circuit champion for the third successive year.

The striking stallion became just the third pacer in history to win the award three times. He joined Westburn Grant (1990, '91 & '92) and Gammalite (1982, '83 & '84).

King Of Swing secured last year's crown through his wins in the Del-Re National AG Hunter Cup at Melton on February 5 and the Garrards Miracle Mile at Menangle on March 12

The Miracle Mile was final start before retirement and proved a fairy tale finale, making him the first three-time winner of Australasia's premier speed test.

King Of Swing's Hunter Cup win last year also made him the only pacer to have won the Hunter Cup and Miracle Mile twice.

King Of Swing, now standing at Cobbitty Equine stud, was raced by Beth Richardson, Mark Congerton, Go Racing (Mick Harvey), Glen Moore, Sylvie MacGregor, Rob and Frank Patriarca, Sue Simmonds and Greg Richardson.

But before King Of Swing made his mark last year, trainer Gary Hall Sr won his 12th WA Pacing Cup when Wildwest stormed home from a seemingly impossible position to win the opening leg of the Grand Circuit at Gloucester Park.

Wildwest's dive-bombing win denied young gun Emily Suvaliko becoming the first female to drive a WA Cup winner when she edged-out right on the line aboard Miracle Moose.

King Of Swing, who was ironically trained by Hall Sr in WA before moving to Team McCarthy in NSW, then stamped his greatness with those Hunter Cup and Miracle Mile victories last year. He beat stablemate Spirit Of St Louis in both features.

The Miracle Mile was memorable for more than just King Of Swing's recordbreaking deeds in winning.

A massive storm hit Menangle on Miracle Mile night and forced the race to be postponed and run a week later.

King Of Swing paced a 1min49.2sec mile to win last year's Miracle Mile. It matched his 2021 time, but was slower than the 1min48sec flat he clocked in 2020.

The Grand Circuit then moved to New Zealand for the Auckland Cup on May 27 where NZ's star pacer Self Assured won the 3200m standing-start feature from his All Stars' trained stablemate Spankem.

Natalie Rasmussen, who was such a star of the Grand Circuit in the mid-2000's with her champion Blacks A Fake, took the winning drive on Self Assured.

Emerging training force Jason
Grimson, who emerged from
obscurity to win the 2021 Sydney
Inter Dominion protest with
Boncel Benjamin, etched his
name into last year's Grand
Circuit books when his muchimproved pacer Majestic
Cruiser scored an upset win in
the TAB Blacks A Fake at Albion
Park on July 23.

Majestic Cruiser went on to run a slashing second in another Grand Circuit leg, the NZ Cup, but more on that later.

Spirit Of St Louis added to his near misses of 2021 when a big second to Majestic Cruiser in the Blacks A Fake.

Young Victorian star Rock N Roll Doo burst into the big league with one of the best performances of 2022 when he sat parked and blitzed his rivals in the sixth leg of last year's Grand Circuit, the Pryde's Easifeed Victoria Cup at Melton on October 10.

It was a breakthrough win for talented trainer-driver Mick Stanley as Rock N Roll Doo clocked a slick 1min54sec mile rate for 2240m.

Rock N Roll Doo then headed to Christchurch for the next Grand Circuit leg, but bungled the standing-start and effectively took no part in the New Zealand Cup at Addington on November 11. Kiwi star Copy That made it back-to-back NZ Cup wins when he led throughout for veteran trainer Ray Green and driver Blair Orange, beating Majestic Cruiser and Spankem.

The Grand Circuit concluded with the SENTrack Inter Dominion final at Melton on December 10 and it again highlighted the stunning emergence of NSW trainer Jason Grimson.

Helped by a lovely Cam Hart drive, I Cast No Shadow improved on moderate form through the three rounds of qualifying heats to sit behind the leader Act Now and score comfortably in a 1min56.7sec mile rate for 2760m.

It was a pegs dominated race with Torrid Saint flashing home for second after sitting three pegs and Act Now fighting on for third after leading.

The Australian Pacers Grand Circuit began in 1977 as a way of showcasing and acknowledging the best open-class pacers around Australia.

New Zealand was admitted in 1992 and it was renamed the Australasian Grand Circuit.

For 2023 it was revised again and returned to an Australian-only series with seven legs, starting with the Fremantle Cup on January 13, including races from WA, NSW, Victoria and Queensland, and concluding with the Brisbane Inter Dominion final at Albion Park on December 12.









Much like King Of Swing in pacing ranks, it was a dominant start to 2022 that won Majestuoso the Australian Trotting Masters title.

The brilliant Andy Gath-trained gelding won seven races in 2022, but it was his early wins in the What The Hill Great Southern Star final and the TAB Australian Trotting Grand Prix that set him up to become the Trotting Master.

Majestuoso then iced it when he finished a close second to Just Believe in the last of the six legs of the series, the SENTrack Inter Dominion Trotting Final at Melton on December 10.

But let's go back to the start.

Gath and his wife, Kate, who drives Majestuoso, always believed he had elite talent, and everything came together through a glorious January and February last year. He raced six times over eight weeks for seven wins and a fourth.

Despite only finishing fourth in his Great Southern Star heat, Majestuoso stepped up when it counted and won the final in a brisk 1min54.6sec mile rate for 1720m at Melton on February 4, last year. The unique and exciting nature of the Great Southern Star is having the heats and final on the same night.

He then won the Aldebaran Knight Pistol at Melton on February 12 before returning to the Trotting Masters and beating classy mare Im Ready Jet by a whisker in the TAB Australian Trotting Grand Prix in a 1min58.1sec mile rate for 2240m at Melton on February 26.

Given the middle three legs of the Trotting Masters were in New Zealand, Majestuoso's record was remarkable, with two wins and a close second from the three legs he contested.

Majestuoso is raced by Norm Jenkin, who also teamed with the Gaths to win the 2020 Trotting Masters crown with their former champion Tornado Valley.

And Majestuoso's superb 2022 narrowly denied the 2021 Trotting Master, Kiwi champion Sundees Son, from going back-to-back in the award.

Sundees Son was a tremendous player again last year with two wins and a third. He won the first NZ-based leg with a stunning display in the Anzac Cup at Auckland's Alexandra Park on May 20 and beat arch-rival Bolt For Brilliance.

In the fourth leg of the series, the Rowe Cup at Alexandra Park, Bolt Brilliance turned the tables with a career-best win in the 3200m standing-start feature. Sundees Son finished third.

Sundees Son returned to his dominant best and took advantage of Bolt For Brilliance's absence to win the Renwick Farms Dominion Trot at Addington during Christchurch's huge "Show Week" on November 11. It was a remarkable third Dominion win for Sundees Son.

So, coming to the last of the six legs of the Trotting Masters, the task was clear for Majestuoso, win or run second, and he secures the title.

Despite some indifferent form through the qualifying heats, Team Gath had him primed for the final, where he found the lead and ran a slashing race but couldn't quite stave off Australia's emerging trotting star Just Believe.

### But Majestuoso beat the rest easily and was crowned the 2022 Trotting Master.

Just Believe's dominant win, which completed a rare clean sweep of all heats and the final of the Inter Dominion, left everything thinking he was the early favourite to grab the crown in 2023.

Like the Australian Pacers Grand Circuit, the format for the Trotting Masters was changed for 2023 to have an Australian focus.

It remains at six legs, but the three NZ feature races have been replaced by three extra Australian-based features.

The new additions are The Hammerhead at Menangle on March 4, the Queensland Trotters' Cup at Albion Park on July 22 and the Bill Collins Sprint at Melton on October 14.





### Victoria



Dale Monteith Chairman

Financial year 2022/23, the first year of the TROTS24 strategic plan, importantly supported by the Victorian Government, saw significant investment in the delivery of initiatives in line with the Harness Racing in Victoria strategy. As a result of the investment required with the rollout of the strategy, HRV reported an operating loss before revaluations of \$4.1 million.

Twelve months after unveiling a deliberately ambitious strategic plan with a bold vision "to be globally recognised as the home of harness racing in Australia, creating innovative racing and events that are underpinned by our commitment to the highest standard of welfare and integrity across the industry", the HRV Board is pleased with the progress made to date.

For several years, harness racing jurisdictions across the globe have struggled with challenges such as declines in breeding, participation and wagering turnover. Additionally, there has been more competition than ever before for mainstream media attention in the highly competitive, modern-day sporting and wagering landscape.

In developing TROTS24 – HRV's strategic framework brought to life by a threeyear action plan – In particular, HRV was mindful of the risks of merely maintaining an unacceptable status quo approach to the years ahead. To not prioritise growth would be to consign the industry to decline.

While achieving growth across the industry is challenging, the alternative is not a viable option if our industry is to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

HRV secured \$4.1 million in Victorian Government funding in FY22, which partially contributed to major projects aligned to TROTS24, such as:

- construction of a new Shepparton training centre
- · expansion of the Charlton training centre
- · investment in HRV's capability, infrastructure and resources to drive the strategic plan.

It was particularly pleasing that wagering turnover on Victorian harness racing eclipsed \$1.2 billion for the first time, increasing 10% on the previous high mark set in FY21. Two key contributors were a record \$9 million turned over on Victoria Cup night in October and strong wagering results on **Hunter Cup night in February** 2022, associated with HRV's broadcast partnership with Free to air channel 78/ Racing.com, Sky Racing and TrotsVision.

In FY22, prize money of \$47.4 million was paid, including a \$1.5 million increase to base-stake races. This saw 43% of \$7000 races from 1 January 2022 receive a lift to either \$8000, \$9000 or \$10,000.

Another \$100,000 was committed to Victorian trotting Country cups to continue to bridge the gap on their pacing country cup equivalents, lifting Victorian country trotting cup stake money from \$500,000 to \$600,000.

FY22 was hopefully the last year severely impacted by COVID-19. It was only due to the work, commitment and passion of our industry participants, staff and clubs that harness racing was able to continue safely, particularly with Melbourne being in lockdown for 87 days of the financial year.

Density limit restrictions extended well into the calendar year 2022. Staff shortages exacerbated already difficult conditions as trading conditions began returning to normal. For these reasons and more, revenues from the Tabcorp joint venture (JV) and at HRV's Tabcorp Park Melton were significantly impacted.

Unlike in FY21, which was largely underpinned by JobKeeper, government support in FY 22 was not as substantial. It is estimated that the reduction in revenues for both the JV and Tabcorp Park Melton resulted in a \$4.6 million impact on the overall profitability of the HRV Group.

To acknowledge the hard work of our clubs over the past two years and to bridge shortfalls in race day revenues resulting from the FY22 COVID lockdowns, HRV agreed to fund the stakes contribution that clubs would traditionally choose to make to "top up" their country cups prize money.

This contribution of \$570,000 didn't just ensure prize money attached to these feature races remained intact. It also supported clubs that were not able to contribute as they usually would because of limited hospitality revenue opportunities.

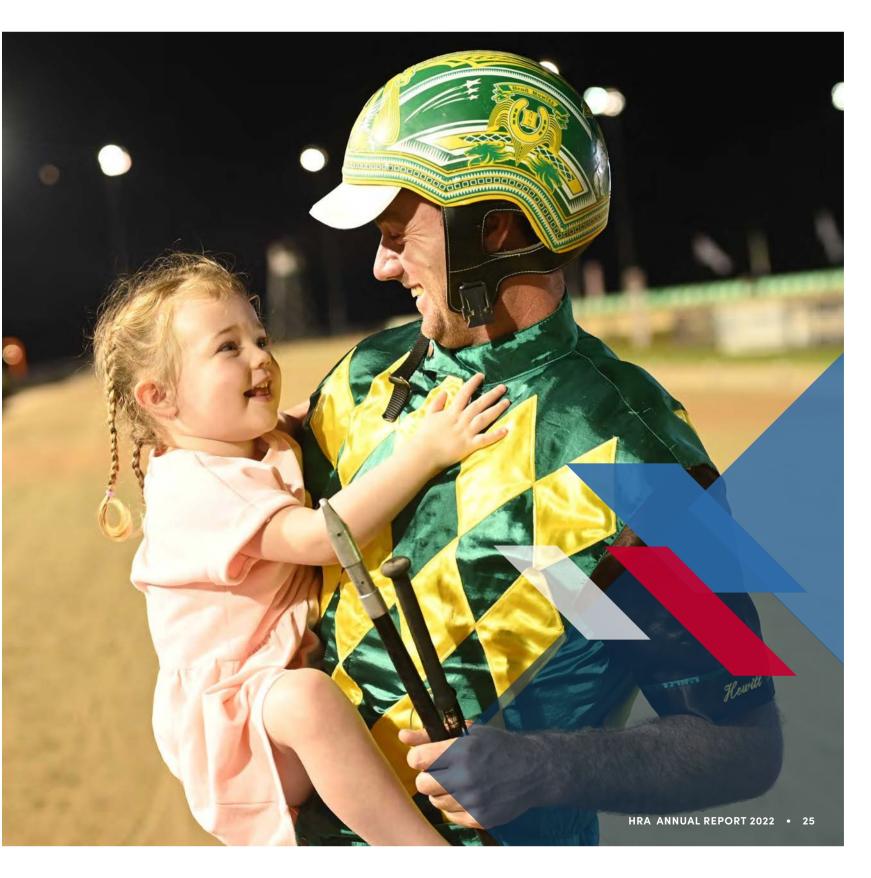
On a very positive note, HRV's digital and online audience continued to grow in FY22. Highlights included a 62% increase in the number of 18-24-vear-old visitors to thetrots.com.au and overall website audience growth of 16% year on year to 517,513 users. Page views on the website eclipsed 4.4 million (up 6.5%). On social media, HRV platforms registered 90.7 million impressions, 44.4 million video views and 5.2 million engagements.

The next two years will critically determine outcomes from key drivers of revenue streams for the industry. The awarding of a new wagering licence in 2024 and the fair distributions of revenues between the codes will be of prime importance to harness racing. HRV will be working with Government to achieve this.

Additionally, HRV will be working to achieve appropriate financial rewards from the industry's diverse vision rights, previously awarded in 2012 in a single agreement. In particular, digital rights previously included with existing agreements to 2024 will play a key role in growing HRV revenues. Free-to-air telecasting and TrotsVision will, in future, complement pay-tv coverage of our sport.

The HRV Board is most appreciative of the Victorian Government's ongoing support for and commitment to our industry. This ongoing commitment of support will assist harness racing in Victoria in achieving its long-term strategic vision.

Finally, it is important to recognise industry participants and stakeholders for their ongoing diligence and adherence to COVID-19 protocols, which ensured harness racing in Victoria continued during the Covid years.





### New South Wales



Ken Brown AM Chairman Harness Racing NSW

In my closing remarks in my Report contained in the 2021 Annual Report of HRNSW, I stated: "Unfortunately, as with the community at large, the harness racing fraternity of NSW continues to live and operate in a Covid environment. However, if 2020/21 is anything to go by, there is every reason to suggest that the Industry will meet the challenges ahead and continue to conduct its activities in a safe and successful manner", and that has certainly proved to be the case.

In my "Chairman's Message to Industry" of 4 May 2022, I was pleased to advise that the Board of Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) had resolved to deliver to the Industry \$15 million in a suite of funding injections over the next three years commencing 1 July 2022.

Signature to this range of initiatives is the "Breed NSW" concept which will deliver a direct injection of \$1.7 million into breeding mares in NSW this upcoming season. That figure equates to a guaranteed \$6 million over the next three years.

The development of the "Breed NSW" initiative was based on Industry feedback specifically requested by HRNSW in February of this year.

Owners of broodmares physically located in NSW from the commencement of the 2022 breeding season (1 August 2022) will receive:

- \$250 on a 42 day pregnancy test, \$1,000 on the HRNSW registration of a live foal, and an additional \$500 for live foals by stallions physically standing in NSW, which have been accepted into the "Breed NSW" Scheme.
- The Colonial Stallion Scheme (\$500 cash rebate), which was introduced by HRNSW several years ago, remains in place.

On the prizemoney front, it will be recalled that HRNSW brought forward by 12 months the guaranteed base prizemoney increases originally scheduled for 1 January 2023.

From 1 January 2022, "A" and "B" Category Meeting Races carried prizemoney of \$8,800 and \$6,800, respectively.

That measure was well received by the Industry, and with wagering revenues holding up, the Board of HRNSW took the decision to further increase prizemoney for "A" Category Meeting Races to \$9,600 as of 1 July 2022.

In effect, in a period of but 18 months, base prizemoney for "A" Category Races has gone from \$6,500 to \$9,600, an increase of 48%.

HRNSW followed the recommendation of the Harness Racing Clubs Committee that the differential in prizemoney levels between meeting categories could be widened so that winning horses are not disadvantaged in relation to the national rating points matrix.

With 65% of the meetings scheduled in NSW being "A" Category, the increase to \$9,600 will deliver \$1.6 million in additional base

prizemoney in 2022/23 and \$4.8 million over the next three years.

In tandem with the foregoing, from 1 July 2022 minimum race prizemoney of Club Menangle Metropolitan Meetings was elevated to \$20,000, representing an annual increase in prizemoney on offer of \$1 million.

The Directors and Management of our Principal Club must be acknowledged for their endeavours in this respect, and is certainly another goal realised.

Other approved increases in prizemoney for the Breeders Challenge and Trot NSW Series as well as boosts in feature trotting events representing in total some \$600,000 annually was announced in May/June 2022.

Whilst NSW will remain at the forefront in the conduct of high value feature races such as the \$1 million Miracle Mile and the recently announced \$2 million "Eureka" Slot Race, HRNSW has with the introduction of a new breeding stimulus package as well as a continued strong focus on prizemoney at the grass-roots level, looked to provide a vital platform for the long term sustainability of our great code of racing.

Following Covid-19 related disruptions to the racing program in both FY2020 and FY2021, when it had been necessary to introduce regionalised racing at dedicated tracks, as well as the cancellation of major carnivals, HRNSW returned to its normal racing program in FY 2022, including the conduct of a very successful Inter Dominion Championship Series from 27 November to 11 December 2021.

Total Wagering Turnover for FY 2022 was \$1.056 billion. This is the highest total wagering turnover ever generated by HRNSW and is the first time turnover has exceeded \$1 billion, a milestone for the Industry.

It is notable that FY2022 remained impacted by the global Coronavirus pandemic that saw TAB retail outlets closed from 1 July 2021 - 11 October 2021 in the first half of the year. The second half of the year saw high inflation with resultant increases in interest rates adversely impacting disposable incomes. This, as well as other global concerns weighing heavily on the Australian market.

A remarkable turnover performance considering all the external forces challenging the economy, livelihoods and the Industry.

Overall for FY2022 HRNSW posted an operating surplus of \$5.608 million (2021 surplus of \$15.717 million).

This operating surplus was derived after the following amounts were paid out to the Industry:

· Significant increases in Prizemoney of \$7.156 million, Flood Assistance Grants of \$0.385 million, and Total subsidies to Clubs in addition to Administration Funding of \$2.936 million.

The Board of HRNSW has resolved that the surplus will be transferred to its Future Fund, which will be used to sustain the Industry across a number of areas, including:

- Further increases in prizemoney, Funding of \$1.7million for the "Breed NSW" Scheme for the upcoming season,
- Increased expenditure across a number of integrity related areas, including the

- appointment of additional investigators and compliance officers; and
- The completion of current and future racecourse infrastructure projects, including the Bathurst Training Centre and major renovations of the Tamworth Showground.

The purchase of the land from the Bathurst Regional Council on which the Bathurst Gold Crown Paceway is located was completed in lune 2022 at the cost of \$0.938 million.

On behalf of the Board of HRNSW I express our thanks to the Hon Kevin Anderson MP Minister for Hospitality and Racing, his personal staff and the staff of the NSW Office of Racing for their support throughout the year.

Appreciation is also extended to Mr Robert Marshall, Chairman of Club Menanale and his Board of Directors, Mr Bruce Christison, CEO of Club Menangle, Ms Julie Maughan Chair of HRICG and its Members; the various Industry Associations and the Harness Racing Clubs throughout the State for their collective endeavours to improve and provide for the wellbeing of the Industry and its participants.

Finally, might I express the Board's thanks and gratitude to Mr John Dumesny, Chief Executive of HRNSW, his senior management team, the stewards and staff of the Authority for their commitment to and support of the Board throughout the year. The Harness Racing Industry of NSW is certainly fortunate to have people of this calibre, knowledge and experience in its employ.



### Queensland



**Steve Wilsom AM** Chairman Harness Racing Queeensland

For a seventh year, I have enjoyed the great fortune of leading this incredible industry, which continues to play such a critical role in the Sunshine State.

On an annual basis, our communities come to life, showcasing the best in food, fashion and live entertainment.

During 2021/22, normalised revenue grew to a record \$353.9 million, an increase of 5.0% year-on-year, while returns to participants reached \$299.3 million, up 10.3%, which was well above our \$290 million strategic target.

Once again, the global pandemic impacted trading results, with Racing Queensland recording a \$0.5 million normalised consolidated loss versus a \$6.2 million consolidated profit in 2020/21.

As part of reinvesting back into the industry, RO's Investment Growth Plan drove record returns to participants. The highlights included:

- · Prize money surpassing \$200 million, with actuals of \$208.6 million (+8.0%);
- Club related payments of \$69.0 million (+22.2%); and
- Jockey and Driver Fees \$19.7 million (+1.9%).

What is more pleasing is the longer-term increase in participant payments, which since 2017 have grown from \$165.4 million to \$299.3 million, up 81%.

From a wagering perspective, the Queensland harness racing industry continued to soar, reaching \$0.7 billion - a 7.9% increase – with revenue growing to \$20.7 million, up 4.3%.

Over the course of the year, we conducted 303 race meetings across the state, featuring 2,780 races with 23,956 starters.

The sport continues to go from strength to strength following the recent confirmation that a new Queensland Centre of Excellence will be established in the Sunshine State.

Situated near Norwell, just 40 minutes between Brisbane and Gold Coast, the world-class harness racing facility is expected to host more than 200 meetings per annum and, critically, will include training and stabling facilities presently unavailable in Queensland.

Finally, we're excited to see Australasia's premier harness racing event, the Inter Dominion, take centre stage at Albion Park throughout December this year - returning to Queensland for the first time since 2009.

The Inter Dominion is an international icon in the sport, and we are proud to boast a long and storied history with the series here in Queensland.

### Racing Highlights and Premierships

As far as individual feats were concerned, it was hard to go past the performance of metropolitan driver Pete McMullen with a record-breaking 315 winners.

A third-generation horseman, McMullen easily eclipsed the previous benchmark held by Shane Graham when he steered home 259 winners during the 2014/15 season.

McMullen's dominance in the sulky followed his 205 wins and Queensland Driver of the Year title in 2020.

On the wagering front, the revised summer format returned healthy results, with average turnover increasing by 26% comparatively to standard non-feature races in the first half of the financial year.

# At the same time, average field sizes of 9.2 were also greater than the average of 8.7 for all other races.

Telecast innovations added to the appeal of the 2022 Trot Rods series at Redcliffe with a new virtual graphics display.

Similar to the virtual 'world record line' for telecasts of major swimming meetings, a 'time to beat' line was introduced during the 2022 Trot Rods.

The Team Teal initiative was again a success, with \$13,600 raised during the 2022 campaign in February and March, with the money donated to ovarian cancer research.

Across six weeks in February and March each year, all reinswomen race in teal pants to raise funds to support the Research Nurse Grant Program and the Survivors Teaching Students education and prevention program.

Racing Queensland, in conjunction with the Albion Park and Redcliffe Harness Racing Clubs, donated \$200 each time a race was won by a reinswoman.

Taleah McMullen drove 22 winners over the six-week campaign.

### 2022 Queensland Constellations

The second staging of the Queensland Constellations only reinforced the growing momentum for harness racing in the Sunshine State.

The 10-week program featured a raft of enhancements, headlined by increased prize money for three of the Carnival's marquee races.

Queensland's Grand Circuit classic, the Blacks A Fake, increased by \$100,000 to \$350,000, while the Group 1 Rising Sun and the Group 1 Sunshine Sprint increased by \$50,000 each, to \$305,000 and \$150,000, respectively.

A further \$100,000 bonus was on offer if a three-year-old was successful in The Rising Sun.

Three of the four invitational runners filled the placings in The Rising Sun, with four-year-old mare Ladies In Red winning by more than 11 metres from Better Eclipse with a half-ametre to three-year-old, Leap To Fame.

Seven days later, Better Eclipse would go one better, winning the Group 1 Sunshine Sprint in style.

Majestic Cruiser, driven by Cameron Hart, caused an upset with the seven-year-old gelding winning the Group 1 Blacks A Fake for trainer Jason Grimson and Leap To Fame winning the Group 1 Queensland Derby for trainer/driver Grant Dixon.

The Shannon Price-trained Wee Man Trouble won the Queensland Trotters Cup with Luke Whittaker in the sulky, while the highly consistent Victorian filly Soho Historia claimed the Queensland Oaks.

The Redcliffe Cup was run at Group 1 level for the first time after prize money was increased to \$100,000.

Sebs Choice saluted with driver Michelle Phillips notching up her first Group 1 win.

In addition, Marburg staged its first Constellations meeting and in the process, played a key role in celebrating the industry's NAIDOC activities.

The feature meeting included specially commissioned harness helmet covers, harness colours and winners' presentation rugs for the NAIDOC Celebration Pace, with the Darren McCall-trained The Maharani triumphant.

The Group 1 winners at the TAB Queensland Constellations were:

- · The Rising Sun: Ladies in Red;
- DJA Trotting Championship Final: Global Flight NZ;
- Sunshine Sprint: Better Eclipse;
- The Golden Girl: Town Echo;

- · Blacks A Fake: Majestic Cruiser NZ;
- Queensland Derby: Leap To Fame;
- Queensland Oaks: Soho Historia;
- Queensland Trotters Cup: Wee Man Trouble NZ;
- Albion Park Gold 2YO Final: Jewel Melody;
- · Redcliffe Yearling Sale Final: Tardelli;
- · Redcliffe Gold Cup: Sebs Choice.

### 2021 TAB Queensland Harness Awards

The TAB Queensland Harness Awards were staged in February

and Jeradas Delight capped off a stunning season with three awards, including the Queensland Harness Horse of the Year.

The highly talented mare edged out Cat King Cole, LL Cool J and Teddy Disco to put the icing on a fairy-tale season.

Her highlight was the \$100,000 The Golden Girl at \$151, which delivered a maiden Group 1 for trainer Jack Butler and driver Brendan Barnes.

Jeradas Delight was also crowned Queensland Aged Pacer of the Year and Garrard's Queensland Filly or Mare of the Year.

Also claiming multiple titles was driver Pete McMullen, whose record-breaking season was rewarded with both Queensland and Australian Driver of the Year.

Grant Dixon, who trained 228 winners, was named Queensland Trainer of the Year, while Cane Smoke, which amassed 120 wins during the 1980s and early 90s, and Slipnslide, a millionaire pacer during the 2000s, were inducted into the Queensland

### Harness Racing Hall of Fame

#### The award winners:

- TAB Queensland Harness Horse of the Year: Jeradas Delight;
- Queensland Trotter of the Year: Sir Fahrenheit NZ:
- Queensland Trainer of the Year: Grant Dixon:
- Queensland Driver of the Year: Pete McMullen:
- Garrard's Queensland Filly or Mare of the Year: Jeradas Delight;
- Queensland Aged Pacer of the Year: leradas Delight;
- Queensland Breeder of the Year: Solid Earth P/L;
- Queensland Owner of the Year: GSM Racing.

### The 2021 Queensland Hall of Fame inductees were:

- · Hall of Fame (Horse): Cane Smoke; and
- Hall of Fame (Horse): Slipnslide.

### **QBRED Highlights**

Queensland's highly vaunted QBRED breeding scheme was further enhanced, with the first-win bonus rising to \$14,000 in 2022.

With more than \$3 million in bonuses available – along with a further \$500,000 in feature race stakes – QBRED continued to be the nation's premier breeding incentive scheme for harness racing.

As part of the 2022 Racing Calendar, the QBRED feature night was rebranded to QStars and moved to August to bring all four Group 1 Triads (2YO and 3YO) together.

The movement of the Triads to a new date enabled the reintroduction of the QBRED Breeders Classic races run in May.





### South Australia



Dr Carlo D'Ortenzio

**Acting Chairman** 

On behalf of the HRSA Board. we present the HRSA report on the current activities, initiatives, and the direction of the industry in South Australia.

2022 was a monumental year for HRSA, as we achieved a great many significant milestones within the industry, coming off the back of rather sluggish performance previously. Financial performance has been the biggest achievement, with a renewed focus on efficient and equitable financial plans to sustain the industry into the future. FY22 saw HRSA record its first 6-figure profit in nearly a decade, of \$266,373, from a FY21 profit of \$40,966. The diligent work of our Financial Director, Mr Heath Pocock, and Finance committee to re-invigorate the industry has been clearly shown in these results, which also coincided with two increases in stake-money and the payment of all outstanding debt for the industry. Investment into integrity, welfare and marketing have been key priorities leading into 2023, and there is ample opportunity to ensure that the industry in SA gains the recognition and prominence it deserves.

In addition to the work of our finance team. the resourcefulness of our clubs has also been a contributing factor, with many securing private arrangements that have brought more exposure and investment at club level. These arrangements have been achieved by our dedicated and passionate volunteers - who continually demonstrate their strength and value to our sport. HRSA

has taken steps to ensure that volunteers have more recognition and support into the future, so that these types of initiatives can continue.

The finalisation of a five-years strategic plan has been another major achievement of 2022, with planning occurring for initiatives that will focus on education, community and growth of the sport. The strategic plan is supported through a robust committee system and, importantly a link with industry through our Industry Advisory Committee. Starting small, the plan outlines successive steps to be taken to ensure the future of the sport in South Australia. HRSA is also in the process of working with the South Australian Government to produce a Master Plan for the industry – with an aim to create sustainable and exciting venues for harness racing across South Australia.

Relationships with wagering partners have continued to evolve throughout 2022 and have been guided by the appointment of our new CEO, Mr Dean Elliott, who has collaborated with national partners to secure high returns and beneficial solutions for our industry. Moving forward, Dean has worked closely with national industry bodies, key stakeholders, and our tri-code partners in SA, to ensure that the dynamic wagering environment will provide benefits to the industry long-term. This work is continually evolving, and the industry moves forwards with confidence and a sharp vision of what is needed for SA.

South Australia has been largely focused on an 'SA-first' growth initiative throughout 2022 but has successfully hosted the National Drivers Championships and

increased our national standing as an alluring place to race. Though progress in this area may be slow at times, these changes will continue to support the SA industry, whilst simultaneously working alongside HRA to ensure national growth and exposure. With a view to increasing our national standing, HRSA looks forwards to continuing this work and aligning state growth with national growth.

2022 can be characterised as a year of 'stability' for the South Australian industry – with the finalisation of legacy issues and a view to build a sturdy base for future growth and support. This has been supported by our clubs, who have continually shown resilience, dedication, and patience; for which we thank them.

Away from the racetrack, there have been several new appointments within the industry that should be noted:

- Ms Lee-Ann Pangrazio was elected as the President of SA BOTRA. Lee-Ann has been actively participating and supporting initiates aimed at increasing breeding and horse population growth across the state.
- Mr Mick Darling was elected as the President of our Country Clubs. Mick has worked tirelessly at his local club to develop new partnerships and alternative funding supports and carries this work across to the other clubs.
- The Board welcomed new Directors, Mr Chris Ilman, who has taken on the new role of a Marketing Director with the industry, and Jasen Murray appointed as Legal Director. Both gentlemen bring a wealth of experience and passion, along with a

determination to see the sport regain its former glory.

I take this opportunity to mention that my own tenure on the Board ended on 31st December 2022. I have enjoyed every second of my time with HRSA and thank everyone for their support and guidance during my tenure. The Board is in safe hands with Dr. Carlo D'Ortenzio stepping into the Chair position.

Overall, 2022 has been a positive year for HRSA, with the sport in a strong position ready to embrace the challenges of 2023 and beyond. On behalf of the HRSA Board I thank everyone for the contributions and can safely say that 2023 will be bigger and better for our industry.

Outgoing Chair Ms Emma Grigson

Incoming Chair
Dr Carlo D'Ortenzio





### Western Australia



**Karen Farley SC** Chairman

On behalf of Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA), it is my pleasure to present the 2022 State report for harness racing in Western Australia.

### Strategic direction

In FY2022, RWWA's vision for the harness code was to optimise commercial performance with a sustainable venue footprint through the following strategic priorities:

- · Reinvigorate ownership and industry participation to improve the viability of participating in WA harness racing.
- · Drive commercial growth within WA harness racing by providing an innovative and engaging product to maximise industry returns and diversify revenue streams.
- · Maintain racing's right to exist by proactively meeting community expectations regarding welfare and integrity.
- · Facilitate viable harness racing clubs within an optimal venue footprint.
- Revitalise the relevance of WA harness racing through investment in marketing, branding and content.

#### Distribution

Strong revenue growth and careful financial management allowed RWWA to bring forward stakes increases that were intended to be introduced from FY2023 by six months, delivering additional benefits to participants.

Significantly, the RWWA Board approved a three-year funding commitment to begin on 1 August 2022 that will provide greater confidence and certainty to participants. Increases in annualised funding for the harness racing code for the 2023 season includes \$3.35 million in stakes and breeding bonuses across all levels of races, increasing to \$5.61 million by the 2025 season.

Additionally, the following outcomes were delivered during FY2022:

- \$38.1 million in club and participant funding and subsidies, including:
  - · \$6.7 million in club funding distributed between 12 harness clubs and five harness training-only venues.
- · \$24.4 million in base and feature stakes.
- \$3.6M paid in WestBred bonuses, of which:
  - · \$825,000 paid to the connections of two-year-olds in bonus payments and a further \$510,000 in First Win Bonus payments.
  - · \$1.1 million paid to the connections of three-year-olds in bonus payments and a further \$480,000 in First Win Bonus payments.
  - · \$432,000 was paid to the connections of four-year-old-plus horses achieving their first win.

#### **Animal welfare**

RWWA remains committed to the best levels of care for animals before, during and after their racing careers.

FY2022 saw an increase in animal welfare initiatives, including a reallocation of one per cent of the total advertised prize money on all Western Australian races towards animal welfare initiatives on top of our existing budget.

We were pleased to partner with The Animal Hospital at Murdoch University (TAHMU) to bring standing CT and MRI to the equine community. Innovation in CT and MRI technology now allows imaging of previously inaccessible structures and, most excitingly, imaging without the need for general anaesthesia.

Standing imaging techniques lead to lower costs and we are hopeful that, by making the technology affordable and accessible, there will be a strong uptake to predict and prevent injuries. In addition to our contribution to the Advanced Standing Imaging Suite, located at TAHMU's facility, we are also offering a contribution towards the cost of using the service for racing animals.

The Off the Track WA Retraining Program also saw its first full year of operation with an increase in the number of horses in retraining at any time.



#### Racing

Western Australia hosted 251 harness race meetings in FY2022, encompassing 2139 races, which provided racing opportunities for 1549 individual standardbreds.

Throughout the year, we focused on ensuring Western Australian racing was scheduled in optimal timeslots. The vision was presented as professionally as possible through SKY Racing and was supported with accurate and timely racing information.

An important part of summarising racing in our State, is to recognise the winners of Western Australia's Group 1 races, as follows:

- Fremantle Pacing Cup won by Minstrel (NZ), trained by Greg and Skye Bond, driven by Ryan Warwick and owned by Team Bond Pty Ltd, Birchbrook Breeding Ltd, R D Butt, J R Butt, A J Hickman, P M Hickman and The Running Camel.
- WA Pacing Cup won by Wildwest, trained by Gary Hall Snr, driven by Callan Suvaljko and owned by Estate of Beth Valerie Richardson, S D MacGregor, R Patriarca, D T Roberts, S L Beven, F Patriarca, K Murphy, R Bacich, R G Barker and A Carter.

The Australian Pacing Gold Yearling Sales recorded a sale aggregate of just under \$3.2 million (\$2.45 million in 2021) and an average sale price of \$32,938. The median sale price was \$22,000, up from \$20,000 in 2021. Of the 123 yearlings for sale, 85.8 per cent were sold on sales day in comparison with last year's 86.7 per cent clearance rate.

#### Marketing and events

Our strategic focus for the harness code to maximise returns to the harness racing industry and ensure its long-term sustainability saw \$460,000 assigned to marketing initiatives to revitalise the code.

Through RWWA's The Trots WA initiative, a range of events were held to recognise and reward current and prospective standardbred owners. Events included hosting current owners on selected race days, as well as introducing the Ladies in Ownership Cocktail Party at Gloucester Park.

Excitingly, 2022 saw the inaugural running of Harness the Dream. The initiative seeks to introduce new audiences to owning a share in a standardbred through two special events offering a behind-the-scenes insight into the trots – and the ultimate prize of winning a 10 per cent share in a ready-to-race standardbred Valedictorian.

The winners of the initiative enjoyed a stellar introduction to the trots, going from racing rookies to Group 1 winners in a matter of weeks, with Valedictorian winning the \$100,000 APG Sales Classic.

Leading up to the APG sales, we also introduced the 'Road to the APG' promotion, where five \$1,000 WestBred vouchers were won by prospective owners to encourage attendance and spend at the sales.

RWWA also introduced extended social media coverage through Twitter pre-race interviews to further support social media coverage of harness races.

The Harness Horse of the Year Awards were

held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 and saw Magnificent Storm win the title as well as a series of accolades for a tremendous performance throughout the season.

The Ladies of Pacing Awards followed on Thursday, 5 May 2022. The event celebrated the diverse role of women in the industry with award categories including dedication to harness racing, leadership, welfare and administration.

#### COVID-19

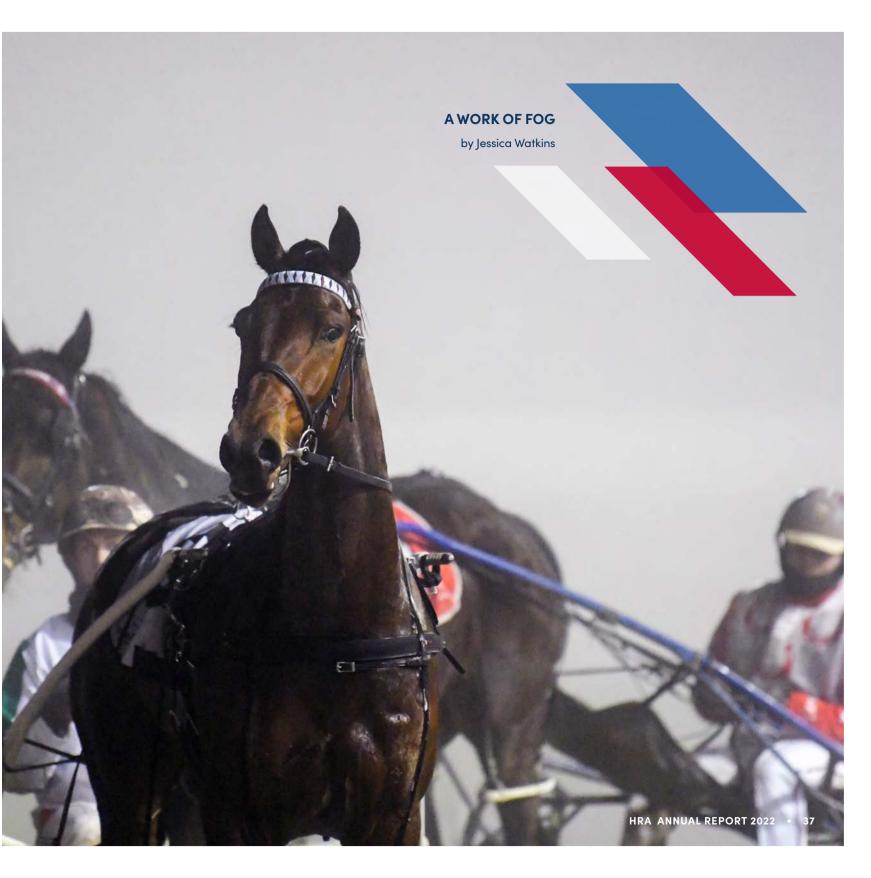
FY2022 continued to present challenges due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. We congratulate the racing community for their continued resilience and ability to adapt to new rules and regulations during the year. Most importantly, we were able to continue racing safely, which was of great benefit to all those involved in the racing sector.

#### Into the future

RWWA has entered 2023 with great enthusiasm and commitment to deliver our funding increases to maintain the sustainability and integrity of the Western Australian racing industry.

Collectively throughout the course of the last year, we have again proven that when faced with uncertainty, we are able to be resilient and focus on the job at hand.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the WA harness racing community for their ongoing commitment and hard work as we navigated another challenging yet exciting year for harness racing in our State.





# Tasmania



**Gene Phair** Chairman Harness Racing Tasmania

Harness racing in Tasmania received two funding increases in 2021/22. After industry consultation, the initial increase was allocated to Code Bonuses. **Drivers Fees, Country Cups and** base stakes. The additional increase saw increases across some key Feature Events as well as the introduction of a new Tasbred series. Tasmanian harness racing stakes remain comparative when comparing country prize money levels. The increase saw two Group One races back in the state in a little over a decade.

There were 26 feature races held in Tasmania during the 2022 Season with stake money of \$20,000 or more. Prize money across these races totalled \$1,052,000.

Local northern trainer Mark Yole trained his gelding Gotta Good Reason to victory in the Group One \$100,000 Tasmania Cup. Victorian based trainer Emma Stewart won the Group One \$100,000 Easter Cup with her Tasmanian bred and part owned 4YO horse Longfellow. Another Victorian trainer Allan McDonough won the Golden Apple with his 4YO horse Blitzern.

The Tashred Sire Stakes were moved to the latter part of the year. Improvements were seen across both wagering and field sizes with heats held over multiple weekends for both the 3 and 4YO series. Winners of the \$60,000 Finals were - 2YO Fillies Iylac Pakaria (Bianca Heenan), 2YO Colts & Geldings Tiredtotellya (Matthew Howlett), 3YO Fillies Iden Boutique (Christian Salter), 3YO Colts & Geldings Mickey Oh (Matthew Howlett), 4YO Mare Looby Lombo (Todd Rattray), 4YO Gelding Longfellow (Emma Stewart).

The National Ratings Handicapping System, introduced on 1st July 2019 has continued to deliver positives within the code across Australia. Increased wagering, field sizes and more competitive racing are the specific outcomes. A Ratings Review Team with representatives from each state meet on a regular basis to discuss feedback from the industry. Programming guidelines introduced in January 2021 continued to be reviewed and amended with the assistance of the Programming sub-committee to provide the Tasmanian industry.

King Island Racing was again scheduled to be held over the December/January period with seven combined Harness / Thoroughbred meetings. Unfortunately, due to a COVID outbreak on the island, the season had to be cut short, with only two meetings being held. A subsidy was paid to trainers on the island to assist with the financial impact.

Thanks are given to industry stalwart Barrie Rattray who stepped down as the Harness Academy Instructor after its reimplementation in 2019, for his time and effort given over this period as an interim replacement. Victorian Trainer/Driver David Miles has stepped into the role with a positive response received from the industry to date.

The Team Teal promotion was held for a six-week period from 1st February to mid-March, concluding in Tasmania with a fundraising event at the Tasmania Cup meeting in Hobart. Leading female driver Jordan Chibnall was the Team Teal ambassador, with Amber Spring, the Mini Trot ambassador. Donning teal pants for the promotional period, \$200 for each female winning drive was donated. Tasmania tallied a total of 11 wins. Tabcorp matched dollar for dollar for each female winning drive. A total of \$178,300 was raised Nationally (including New Zealand) from female winning drives.

Introduced to the Tasmania Harness calendar in 2022 was the Pacing for Pink promotion, which raises funds for the McGrath Foundation. Held over the month of May, sponsored drivers wear pink pants with all sponsorship funds donated. In addition to this, a function was held on Mother's Day at Launceston with attending guest speakers, merchandise sales and raffles.

Improvements to the Tasbred bonus scheme continues with increased funding each year being contributed to breeding in Tasmania.

### Leading our state premiership tables for 2021 was:

Leading Trainer - Ben Yole

Leading Driver - Mitch Ford

Leading Junior Driver - Mitch Ford

Leading Female Trainer – Bianca Heenan

Leading Female Driver - Bronte Miller

The remainder of the annual awards, which are yet to be finalized, will be presented at our annual dinner set for Friday, 21st April 2023.

In the infrastructure investment space, work continues on the development of a new greyhound and harness racing facility on the North-West Coast at the now secured site Mill Road, Devonport.

Tasracing welcomed new Code Director Neil Grose in November 2021. Mr Grose has a diverse business experience across tourism, journalism, publishing, education, local government and regional economic development and is currently the Bell Bay Hydrogen Cluster Manager responsible for the regional economic development of local Tasmanian businesses as a key part of the emerging global green hydrogen industry.







#### LAWN DERBY AWARDS - PACERS



#### KING OF SWING NZ

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

(bh 2014 by ROCKNROLL HANOVER USA from TWIST AND TWIRL NZ)

Performances: 4 starts 4 wins 0 placings \$900,300 1:47.9MS

Breeder: Breckon Farms Ltd

Owners: Estate of B V Richardson, M A Congerton, Go Racing, G L Moore, S D McGregor, R Patriarca, F Patriarca, S E Simmonds, G |

Richardson

Drivers: Luke McCarthy, David Moran

Trainer: Belinda McCarthy



#### **LADIES IN RED**

#### AGED MARE PACER OF THE YEAR

(bm 2017 by MACH THREE CA from KABBALAH KAREN B CA) Performances: 7 starts 5 wins 2 placings \$327,020 1:53.3MS

Breeder: Lauriston Bloodstock Pty Ltd Owners: Lauriston Bloodstock Pty Ltd Drivers: Nathan Jack, David Moran

Trainer: Emma Stewart



#### **ENCIPHER**

#### **3YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR**

bf 2018 by CAPTAINTREACHEROUS (US) from OUR CAVORT NZ Performances: 10 starts 8 wins 2 placings \$253,141 1:52.4MS

Breeder: T Linke Owner: T Linke Drivers: Kate Gath Trainer: Emma Stewart



#### **LEAP TO FAME**

#### 3YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR

(bc 2018 by BETTORS DELIGHT USA from LETTUCEREASON Performances: 12 starts 9 wins 3 placings \$451,231 1:49.0MS

Breeder: Redbank Lodge Standardbreds

Owner: Solid Earth Pty Ltd

**Driver: Grant Dixon** Trainer: Grant Dixon



#### MAJOR DELIGHT

#### 2YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR

(bf 2019 by BETTORS DELIGHT USA from LADY EUTHENIA) Performances: 9 starts 9 wins 0 placings \$375,179 1:50.3MS

Breeder: P Lewis Owners: P Lewis **Drivers: Mark Pitt** Trainer: Emma Stewart



#### **NEVER ENDING**

#### 2YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR

(bbg 2019 by SWEET LOU USA from ENDLESS JOURNEY) Performances: 6 starts 6 wins 0 Placings \$274,485 1:55.1MS

Breeder: S A Johnson

Owners: G Mortimer, R Fitzgerald, R, J & S Brennan, K Jones,

G Heath, A & K Vallis, T & | Florio, P & | Buchanan

Driver: Gary Hall Inr Trainer: Justin Prentice



#### **EGRET**

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

(bm 2018 by FATHER PATRICK (US) from MOYABAMBA)

Performances: 11 starts 5 wins 5 placings \$104,720

TR1:56.3MS

Breeder: A M Morris

Owner: Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd & Angela Morris Drivers: Nathan Jack, Blake Fitzpatrick, Leigh Sutton

Trainer: Anton Golino



#### THE LOCOMOTIVE

#### 2YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bc 2019 by MUSCLE MASS USA from LA COOCARACHA)

Performances: 12 starts 9 wins 1 placing \$198,298

TR1:58.4MS

Breeder: Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd

Owner: G Holland, W Potter

Driver: Nathan Jack Trainer: Wayne Potter



#### **ROCKINWITHATTITUDE**

#### 2YO TROTTING FILLY OF THE YEAR

(brf 2019 by ALDEBARAN EAGLE USA from ROCKIN SHIRAZ)

Aust Performances: 14 starts 9 wins 3 placings

\$130,000 TR1:57.9MS

Breeder: M Arnott, J Stewart, K Holzberger, J Ryan, A

Webb, A Wyllie,

A Kingston, C Holloway, M Drady, T Russell

Owners: M Arnott, J Stewart, K Holzberger, J Ryan, A

Webb, A Wyllie,

A Kingston, C Holloway, M Drady Drivers: David Miles, Jayden Barker

Trainer: David Miles





#### **VANCLEVE AWARDS – TROTTERS**



#### **MAJESTUOSO NZ**

# AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bg 2015 by MAJESTIC SON CA from ROSEMARYZ LUCK (NZ))
Performances: 15 starts 7 wins 6 placings \$395,310 TR1:54.6MS

Breeders: Alabar (NZ) Ltd.

Owner: N Jenkin Drivers: Kate Gath Trainer: Andy Gath



#### **QUEEN ELIDA NZ**

#### AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR

(bm 2017 by LOVE YOU (FRA) from QUEEN KENNY (NZ))

Performances: 12 starts 7 wins 5 placings \$160,340 TR1:55.8MS

Breeder: G | McKenzie, R H Dixon

Owners: G & G McKenzie, B & B McKenzie, T & C Barron

Drivers: Chris Alford Trainer: Brent Lilley



#### **CRAVACHE DOR**

#### **3YO TROTTING COLT/GELDING OF THE YEAR**

(brg 2018 by ORLANDO VICI (FRA) from MUSCLES N BLUES USA)
Performances: 13 starts 10 wins 2 placings \$178,850 TR1:55.6MS

Breeder: Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd Owner: Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd

Driver: Nathan Jack Trainer: Anton Golino

#### **2022 GLOBE DERBY AWARDS**

#### **BETTORS DELIGHT USA (for the 11th time)**

Leading Sire by Stakemoney

CAPTAINTREACHEROUS (US) (for the 1st time)

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney

MAJESTIC SON CA (for the 7th time)

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney

#### **2022 STATISTICS**

#### **LEADING SIRE BY STAKEMONEY**

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

561 starters 404 winners 1,089 wins \$13,481,470

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

CAPTAINTREACHEROUS (US) -

62 starters 36 winners 84 wins \$1,659,129

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

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

84 starters 70 winners 208 wins \$2,438,149

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

CAPTAINTREACHEROUS (US) -

113 starters 74 winners 214 wins \$3,354,829

#### LEADING SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

MAIESTIC SON CA -

179 starters 108 winners 291 wins \$3,068,573

#### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

SUNDON USA -

189 starters 111 winners 285 wins \$3,023,355

#### **LEADING SIRE BY WINNERS**

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

404 winners

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

SWEET LOU USA -

50 winners

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

BETTORS DELIGHT USA -

70 winners

#### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

434 starters 307 winners 859 wins \$10,331,262

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

ART MAIOR USA -

81 starters 44 winners 94 wins \$1,749,088

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

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

118 starters 88 winners 247 wins \$2,828,206

#### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY WINNERS

ART MAJOR USA -

312 winners

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

ART MAJOR USA -

44 winners

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

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA -**

88 winners



# Winona and Maori Miss Awards Announced

02 February 2023 | Adam Hamilton





Harness Racing Australia are pleased to announce the Broodmare of the Year winners for season 2022.

Elusive Charm, by CR Commando out of the kiwi mare Sunny Folly was voted the Maori Miss Award winner for the Australian Trotting Broodmare of the Year.

Elusive Charm, who was owned and bred by well-known Cranbourne identity David Scott, won 10 races before being retired to the breeding barn where she had five foals, all winners.

Four of her progeny raced and won in 2022, headed by emerging open-class trotter Locksley Lover and the exciting juvenile filly Cognati. Locksley Lover raced 12 times last year for six wins, four placings and snagged the Group 1 Vicbred 4YO Entires and Geldings final on New Year's Eve at Melton.

Cognati's four wins from just 12 starts, included the Group 1 Redwood Classic and a heat of the Breeders Crown 2YO Fillies series. Elusive Charm's other winners last season were Melpark Magic (three wins and \$45,154 in earnings) and Thevallendiny (one win from nine starts).

In pacing ranks, The Peter Lewis owned and bred Lady Euthenia (Art Major – Reggae Miss) won the Winona Award for the Australian Pacing Broodmare of the Year.

A star filly on the track with 21 wins, including a NSW Oaks, from just 41 starts, the daughter of Art Major has produced just five foals and all have been winners. Three of them raced and won in 2022, headed by Australian 2YO Pacing Filly of the Year, Major Delight. She was unbeaten in nine starts for trainer Emma Stewart, including Group 1 wins in the Breeders Crown, NSW Breeders Challenge and APG Victorian Gold Bullion final.

Another of her progeny, former Victoria Cup hero Max Delight, raced consistently at Grand Circuit level last season with 19 starts for a win, seven placings and \$88,570 in prize money.

Lady Delight was Lady Euthenia's other runner in 2022. She raced 27 times for three wins and 13 placings. earning \$174,875 for the season.

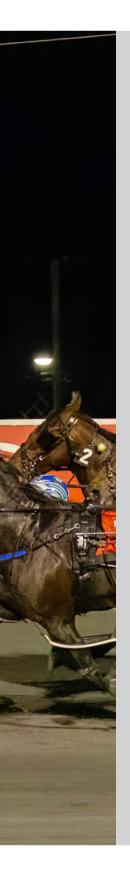
# Best Published Action or Still Photograph

#### **REDCLIFFE CUP**

Taken by Toby Coutts at Redcliffe Cup on June 24, 2022.

It's fireworks as Sebs Choice leads the field in the Redcliffe Cup of 2022.

# Media Awards



#### Harness Racing Australia (HRA) are thrilled to announce the 2022 Joseph **Coulter Media Award** winners.

HRA congratulates this year's winners of the awards and are appreciative of those who nominated.

#### Joseph Coulter Best News Story of the Year

Breeding barn miracle takes the first step

Written by Terry Gange and published Harnesslink.com November 29, 2022

Terry describes the breeding miracle of Vee Em Gee Macray as told to him by less Tubbs

#### Graham Goffin Memorial Award -**Best Feature Article**

Still the biggest highlight 44 years later

Written by Paul Courts and published on www.nationaltrotguide.com.au on March 4, 2022

Paul Courts interviews the great Brian Gath about what the Inter Dominion means to him.

#### Graham Goffin Memorial Award -**Best Regional Story**

Thanks for the memories, Muz

Written by Terry Gange and published Harnesslink February 15, 2022

Following the retirement of San Carlo, Terry Gange details how special the horse was to Bec Bartley.

#### Graham Goffin Memorial Award -**Best Historical Feature**

How the wars were won when the Inter Dom came to Victoria

Written by Len Baker and published on thetrots.com.au on November 22, 2022.

Len Baker recounts each of the ten Inter Dominions held in Victoria from 1950 to 2018.

#### **Best Radio Feature to Air**

One out One back (TABtouch) - Matt Young interviews Mark Reed, Russell **Betts & Chris Barsby** 

Matt Young interviews Mark Reed following the announcement of his retirement after a colourful career.

#### Best Feature Television/Video Film to Air

King of Swing - "The King of Menangle" (Brittany Graham, Alice **Lindeman & Rodney Mansour)** 

By Sky Racing - Aired September 7th,

Sky Racing played a fantastic twenty minute video tribute to retiring champion King of Swing as narrated by Brittany Graham.

#### Award of Merit For Demonstrated **Excellence in Promotion**

Mobile Rolling - produced by Maxwell Beasley with interviews by Gary Crocker and Jim Jacques

Mobile Rolling produced terrific feature length interviews with some of the greats of SA Harness Racing in 2022 on Social Media as it continues to outstandingly promote South Australian harness racing.

#### **Award of Merit For Demonstrated Excellence in Social Media Usage & Innovation**

Paul Cochrane (HRNSW) - Harness **Racing Fantasy** 

Paul Cochrane of Harness Racing New South Wales launched a new fantasy fan engagement game to the sport in 2022 with great success.

#### Jessica Watkins - Club Menangle

Jessica Watkins, Marketing Coordinator of Club Menangle is recognised for her outstanding achievements and contribution to harness racina for her work in race photography, social media, owner communications and on the Sprint Lane podcast.





# Out of Shadows into the limelight as Grimson conquers ID again



"Unbelievable" was the fitting first word of a rapt Jason Grimson after he captured the SENTrack Inter Dominion Pacing Championship, a second successive series triumph for the stable.

I Cast No Shadow rattled to the line, mowing down brilliant leader Act Now amid a 54-second last half, to emulate Boncel Benjamin's stunning win last year and again gift Grimson Australasia's most prized harness racing silverware, albeit this year without the controversy of a protest.

"I actually thought he would win," the New South Wales trainer told TrotsVision. "I was confident."

Grimson attributed the thrilling final burst in part to a gear change during the week, having for the first time since I Cast No Shadow joined the camp a year ago sent him out minus head gear. Reinsman Cam Hart said it appeared to make all the difference.

"(Jason's) just such a great horseman, I've spent a few mornings here and there with him," Hart said. "He's just unbelievable. Even tonight he made a gear change to this horse, he's worn pull down sliding blocks since he's had him the whole time and he didn't wear them tonight and he was so sharp on the way home."

The race was book ended by thrills but with only modest movement in the middle. Spirit Of St Louis burst from the gates but Act Now was able to hold him on his outside while Honolua Bay elected not to engage.

I Cast No Shadow tagged on to the back of Act Now and as expected, Expensive Ego was soon on his outside and that was how they settled until the sprint to the line.

A 26.4-second third quarter had them running and it seemed Act Now's ID22, but I Cast No Shadow wore him down in the straight and then bolted clear, with Torrid Saint – who only gained a run Friday after Beyond Delight withdrew – also savaging the line to finish a close second and relegate Act Now to third.

"Unbelievable," Grimson said. "When I first got him he had a few niggling problems. We did the right thing by the horse, tipping him out straight away. When he came back he got his confidence back, which was what he really needed."

And he's been outstanding for the stable, first capturing the Len Smith Mile and now, for long-time harness racing owner Dianne Reilly, an Inter Dominion championship.

"Words just can't explain how I feel, I'm so happy," Reilly said. "Just to get into the Inter Dominion, and I said if I ran between seventh and last I'd get \$7500. I can relax now, I've won everything, there's no more to prove. I'm so happy."

As was reinsman Cam Hart.

"It feels unbelievable," he said. "You dream of these things as a kid. Coming from a little town in Junee, I know there will be a lot of people watching there tonight. It's special to do it with Jase as well, he's such a good mate.

"Once we drew barrier one. I knew he was as good as any if he gets a trip like that and he's so fast."



# 'This is something special': Jess and Greg claim ID22 glory

The husband-and-wife team of Greg Sugars and Jess Tubbs celebrated the biggest moment of their careers when a horse that only set foot in their Myrniong stables this year won the SENTrack **Inter Dominion Trotting Championship Grand Final.** 

Just Believe completed a clean sweep of the heats and decider with a gutsy, gritty performance in Saturday night's \$250,000 showdown at Melton, lunging at long-time leader Majestuoso in the shadows of the post to claim victory.

The half-neck success bettered the horse's third placing in last year's Inter Dominion decider at Menangle when he was trained by Michael Hughes, who called time on his involvement in the sport and sent the sixyear-old gelding to the Tubbs-Sugars barn.

"I just can't believe it – this is not a trophy I ever expected to be holding," Tubbs, the official trainer of the horse, said.

"To do it with Greg is just amazing. It's such

a family effort at our stables, we've got such a great group of owners and this horse is just a little legend.

"And he just tried his guts out. For him to earn that title and for us to have done this as a family is just incredible."

Just Believe progressed through the ID22 heats unbeaten after front-running wins from favourable barriers at Ballarat, Shepparton and Geelong, but some had gone cold on his chances after landing gate 12 for the final.

But a brilliant Sugars drive helped secure the champion reinsman a secondsuccessive Inter Dominion trotting crown after prevailing aboard Maori Law for Richard and Emmett Brosnan in 2021.

Sugars rolled to a spot outside surprise early leader Majestuoso at the 1500m mark and remained there until the closing stages of the marathon 2760m event. Andy Gath's charge skipped clear in the straight and looked the winner, but Just Believe dug deep to reel him in just before the post and snatch a thrilling victory.

Favourite Queen Elida, for Brent Lilley and Chris Alford, got out from three back the pegs and flashed home for third, with John Justice's Mufasa Metro fourth from behind the leader.

"I didn't have a lot of options from the draw. I had to put him in the hunt when I could, so it worked out great," Sugars said.

"I thought my three main dangers were going to have soft trips one, two and three fence, so I knew I would get around (to outsider the leader) pretty comfortably and it sort of worked out that way.

"But I was just mindful off the back that I didn't want to be a sitting shot for Mufasa Metro or Queen Elida because I knew they were going to be hitting the line late.

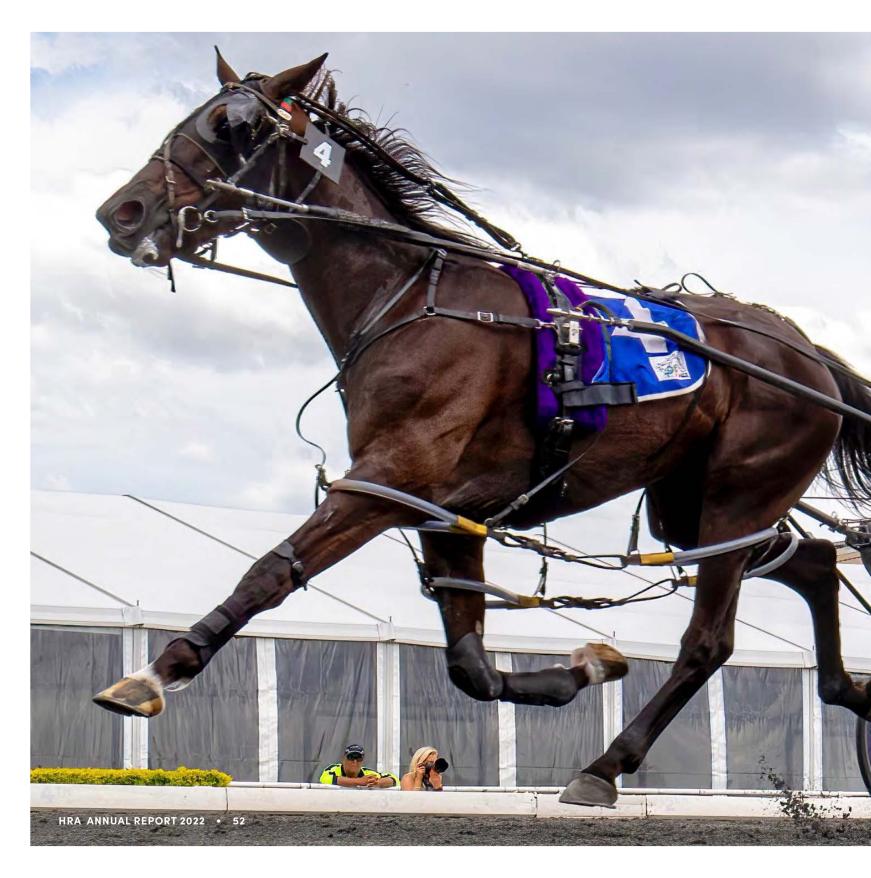
"It was just a matter of doing enough without doing too much.

"This is something special."

lust Believe's large, passionate group of owners were on track to celebrate the success, with the Iona Trotter Syndicate leasing the horse off breeder Pat Driscoll of Yabby Dam Farms.

The Orlando Vici gelding won eight races for former trainer Hughes and has now triumphed in seven of 10 starts since joining Tubbs and Sugars.

He has a record of 15 wins from 51 starts with prizemoney earnings now up over \$390,000.



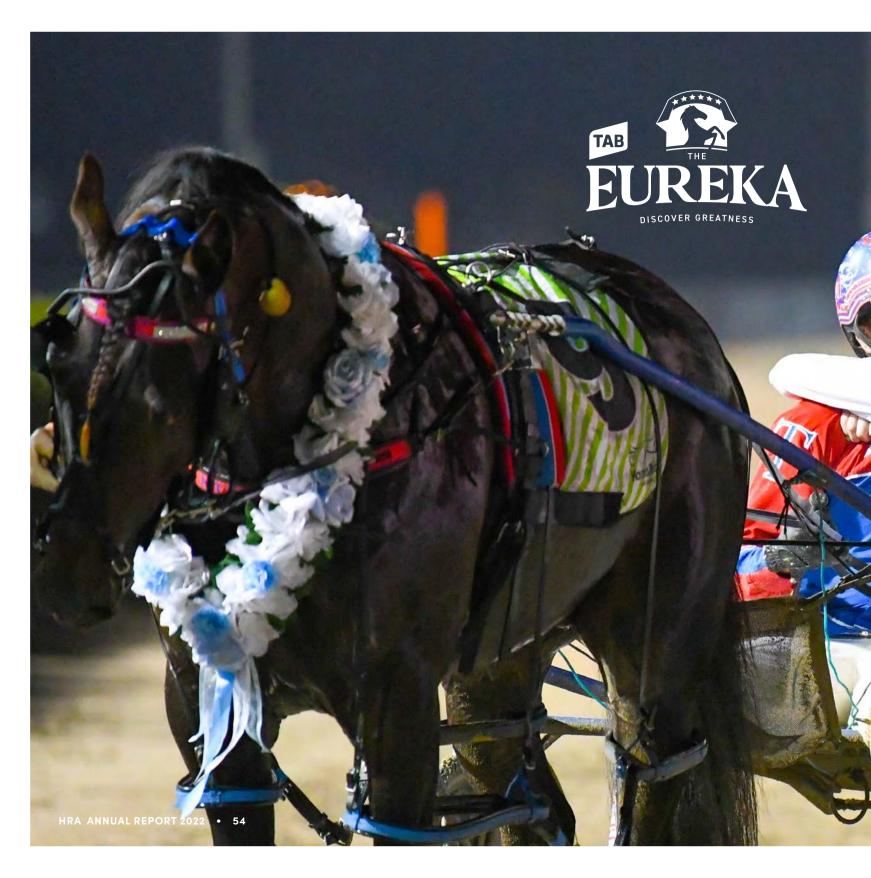




STARTS 4,834 WINS 393 PLACES 864 STAKES \$3,015,495

## Pete McMullen Australian Driver of the Year

STARTS 1510 WINS 266 PLACES 422 STAKES \$1,895,742







"If you're following harness racing for the first time, this is an era to savour."



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