

# Annual Report

2009/2010



HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA

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# Chairman's Report



**It has been an interesting but frustrating year in Australian harness racing. Whilst there has been much to celebrate, there are still several significant issues which demand the continued focus of administrators and regulators.**

**There has been an abundance of exciting racing with established stars such as Blacks A Fake, Monkey King and Sundons Gift rising to even greater heights alongside the emergence of some outstanding juvenile pacers and trotters.**

Monkey King was the Barastoc Grand Circuit Champion with a raft of exceptional performances, but he could not hold out Blacks A Fake in the Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Grand Final.

The 15,000 spectators at Menangle on Sunday, March 7 knew they were watching a very special moment in Australian sport as Natalie Rasmussen urged "Blackie" to a record fourth Championship win, with Monkey King a gallant runner-up.

A month earlier, Chris Lang guided Sundons Gift to his second consecutive Inter Dominion Trotting Championship victory at Moonee Valley.

There was a big crowd in attendance and plenty of nostalgia on the final night of harness racing at the popular Melbourne venue.

Our industry is also blessed with some fabulous drivers and trainers, many of them young men and women making their mark in the sport.

Any celebration of the wonderful year of racing is, however, tinged with sadness over the horrific head injuries suffered by Danielle Hill in a race fall at Globe Derby Park in Adelaide in May.

The 2009 Australasian Young Drivers' Champion is on the mend but will require further treatment.

Unfortunately, her race driving days are over but it is my understanding she wants to stay involved with harness racing and I'm sure everyone in the industry wishes her well.

## Critical Issues

Off the track, much of Harness Racing Australia's focus has been on the critical issues of industry funding and animal welfare.

At the time of writing this report final figures were not available, but it appeared national wagering turnover on harness racing in the 2009/10 season through "official" channels would exceed \$2 billion, a marginal increase on the previous year.

Conservative estimates suggest leakage to corporate bookmakers was in excess of 30 percent of the "official" figure – more than \$600 million!

This remains a festering sore for the Australian racing industry and little has been done to treat it.

The NSW Race Fields Legislation, providing for a payment of 1.5 percent of turnover by any operator betting on the State's racing, has been regarded by many as the model for dealing, at least in part, with the problem.

The validity of the legislation was upheld in court in a complex judgement handed down in June, but the judge was concerned with what he felt was discriminatory application of the charges.

Appeals are before the court and the matter is not expected to be resolved until late 2010.

Regardless of the outcome of the NSW case, the racing industry must become more aggressive in promoting and protecting revenue streams.

We need to be more involved with the wagering operators and insist on being consulted on marketing plans and product development opportunities.

The TABs are partly responsible for the emergence of the corporate bookmakers as they failed to keep pace with technological change or to provide improved customer service.

The industry did little to address this situation.

There is nothing to be achieved by playing the "blame game" but the racing product belongs to our industry and we need to ensure the interests of our participants are protected by all parties, including those responsible for retail marketing of wagering services.

Similarly, we need to ensure the industry's regulators provide the best possible legislative framework to protect the industry's funding.

The Australian Productivity Commission Inquiry Into Gambling, released in July, attempted to address some of these issues and agreed that:-

*"in the absence of regulation, free-riding by wagering providers would undermine the racing industry and harm consumers of wagering and racing products".*

HRA put considerable effort into its submissions and appeared at the public hearings, but was disappointed with many of the final recommendations.

We felt these showed a general lack of understanding of the racing industry by the Commission, but it did demonstrate that we need to be more active in ensuring decision makers clearly understand the value of our industry to the economy and the community at large.

This was also evident in another time-consuming project, campaigning against a move by a group of thoroughbred breeders for Federal Government approval for voluntary vaccination of horses against Equine Influenza.

Despite two Federal Inquiries in the past three years recommending that vigilant quarantine measures remained the best protection from E.I., it became apparent in early 2010 that the Federal Government would agree to allow voluntary vaccination.

This was due, in part, to the Government's concern that the equine industry had not become a signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA).

HRA has been prepared to sign the EADRA since before the 2007 outbreak of E.I.

HRA has also consistently advocated that any proposal to introduce routine vaccination as a risk mitigation measure while E.I. is not present in Australia is scientifically flawed, is of no benefit from an economic standpoint and has serious implications from a trade perspective.

After hearing of the possible Government decision, HRA organised a massive lobbying campaign, with all State controlling bodies and member clubs writing to Members of State and Federal Parliaments explaining the ramifications for harness racing, and other equine bodies, if voluntary vaccination was allowed.

This ultimately resulted in the Government delaying any decision and the matter is now the subject of a Senate Inquiry.

It is hoped this will all be satisfactorily resolved and the equine industry become a signatory to EADRA in late 2010.

Some of the other positives of the past year included:-

- Maintaining a strong focus on integrity;
- Further refinement of the handicapping rules;
- A substantial review of prohibited substance rules; and
- The introduction of new whip rules.

The new whip rules, introduced in January 2010 as an animal welfare measure and to improve the image of harness racing, were widely applauded but opposed by a group of drivers, primarily from NSW.

Following a submission by the National Trainers' and Drivers' Association regarding safety concerns, the HRA Executive recommended a minor change in the whip rules

**"Our industry is also blessed with some fabulous drivers and trainers"**

for the next season to allow drivers to cross the reins when driving their horses out in the final 200 metres of a race, provided they maintained full control of the horse.

It is disappointing that Harness Racing Victoria decided not to adopt the change, but that is its right.

Far more disappointing, however, is the time taken up by the debate over whips.

This was an operational issue which most sensible people realised was inevitable from both an animal welfare and image perspective.

Admittedly, it was an important issue which affected a significant number of participants.

Nonetheless, it is ludicrous that it consumed so much administrative time and attracted so much negative publicity for our industry.

Much of this time would have been better spent on more critical matters such as the threats to industry funding, how wagering turnover can be increased and how we can grow the fan base.

I have no doubt our competitors for the leisure dollar and corporate bookmakers would not be distracted by such issues.

Furthermore, I trust that those commentators and participants who were so vocal during the whips debate can make a positive contribution towards resolution of other major issues affecting our industry.

### **The Winds of Change (Acknowledgments)**

Just as rules are changing, the winds of change are blowing through the senior administrative ranks of harness racing.

Neil Busse stepped down in 2010 after 10 extremely productive years as Harness Racing Victoria Chairman, including the development of the magnificent Melton Complex.

Neil spent nine years on the HRA Executive, including a year as Deputy Chairman.

A hearty welcome to Ken Latta, who I'm sure will be an able replacement, both as HRV Chairman and as a HRA Executive member.

Bob Lette, who has represented Queensland Harness Racing on the HRA Executive since 2003 and has been Deputy Chairman for the past six years, is departing the national body.

Similarly, Grant Goodall, who has been on the HRA Executive since March 2009, has announced he is vacating the chair at Harness Racing South Australia early in 2011.

All three gentlemen have made an outstanding contribution to the well being of harness racing in Australia and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

I must also acknowledge Andrew Kelly for his outstanding work as HRA Chief Executive.

Andrew has a passion for harness racing, an admirable work ethic, a pragmatic and responsible approach to resolving issues and a pleasant personality.

My thanks to him and his staff at HRA, who are dedicated to serving our industry.

We are grateful for your efforts.

My thanks also go to the members of the HRA Executive for their support, wise counsel and robust debate of issues, and to the many industry figures who serve on the various HRA Committees.

### **The Road Ahead**

The road ahead is paved with opportunity, not littered with the debris of shattered dreams.

Senior administrators have an obligation to make the most of the opportunity!

The Australian harness racing industry has a challenge to compete more aggressively for the leisure dollar.

We need to work together – and with our wagering partners – to make our product more attractive, to grow the fan base and increase wagering turnover.

We need to work with the wagering operators to improve customer service.

Importantly, we need to increase returns to our participants.

The battle must continue to address issues pertaining to industry funding.

We need to work with regulators to ensure the legislative framework is in place to enable us to get a fair return for our product from anyone who attempts to use it for commercial activities.

Our marketers need to concentrate on improving the relevance of our product in an increasingly competitive market.

“Hot Shots – One Lap, One Shot At Victory” should be implemented as a matter of priority, along with innovative broadcast presentation and new bet types.

We need to consider the relevance of existing broadcast agreements.

Sky Channel has been a valued industry partner for many years and should continue to be so, but technological change has brought new challenges.

The Sky contracts prevent our industry from taking advantage of these, particularly the internet and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

The focus on integrity and animal welfare must continue unabated.

The campaign to sign the EADRA must continue and HRA must determine how best to capitalise on the positives which emerged from the lobbying campaign with politicians against voluntary vaccination.

The industry will be deciding in the first few months of the new season what to do with the future of the Inter Dominion Pacing and Trotting Championships.

Whatever the outcome, we must provide the utmost support to what is our flagship event and the best prospect for getting broader community understanding of all that is good about harness racing.

HRA has four other projects which it will be advancing in the years ahead:-

- A proposal for introduction of an industry card for all harness racing participants;
- A submission to Federal authorities for taxation legislation reform;
- A proposal to simplify the registration and naming of foals; and
- A review of the ownership and breeding of standardbred horses.

The latter project is particularly significant, as breeding numbers have been eroded by the prolonged drought of recent years and the Global Financial Crisis.

The Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel has been established to determine the current health and trends of the standardbred breeding industry and to develop a plan to stimulate future growth of breeding and ownership of broodmares and racehorses.

All industry participants are invited to contribute to the development of this plan by way of a formal survey and submission process.

Also in the year ahead we will see the continued development of the twin Tabcorp Parks (Melton and Menangle).

Both have proved in a short time that they are fantastic venues for harness racing.

HRV has entered into a partnership agreement with the Shire of Melton to develop the remaining 81 hectares of land adjoining its complex, while the NSW Harness Racing Club has ambitious plans for Menangle.

These plans are based on the sale of Harold Park, which at the time of writing was imminent.

The Club has determined the final harness race meeting at the iconic Harold Park track will be on Friday, December 17, 2010.

Perhaps we can all channel some of the past glory and massive support for harness racing, which we witnessed so often at the Glebe track, into our deliberations for the issues now confronting us.



**Geoff Want**  
**Chairman**

**“The road ahead is paved with opportunity, not littered with the debris of shattered dreams”**

# CEO's Report



During the year Harness Racing Australia released a plan to simplify and align its activities and resources, focusing on the long-term well-being and sustainability of the Australian harness racing industry and setting strategic priorities for the next three years.

**Five key priorities were developed for the period from 2010 to 2012, based on the current environment, emerging trends and operational activities. They are:-**

1. Protect and strengthen the reputation of harness racing.
2. Generate and drive interest in harness racing.
3. Attract, develop and keep people in the harness racing industry.
4. Ensure HRA has a strong and sustainable financial base.
5. Develop strategies to stimulate ownership and breeding of standardbred horses in Australia

### **Protect and strengthen the reputation of harness racing**

HRA has adopted a leadership role to foster an environment in which integrity, rules and animal welfare standards can be upheld.

This is reflected in many areas with continued improvement of prohibited substance rules; lobbying for improvements in drug research and testing capabilities; the introduction of a national Animal Welfare Statement; the launch of the Injury and Incident Database; and continued monitoring of "horse wastage".

HRA is committed to protecting the safety of all participants and horses and will continue to partner animal welfare and safety initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of injury to both horse and driver – optimising racing careers and reducing insurance premiums.



In the past racing year, new whip rules were introduced, as well as slight amendments to improve horse control and safety.

With great support from drivers, our industry's important "shop window" has been vastly improved.

As gear and equipment continues to evolve, particularly sulkies and wheels, so too does the need for HRA to maintain high testing and approval standards.

With the assistance of Tom Gibson from Human Impact Engineering, a new test rig and improved sulky guidelines have been produced with the full support of industry insurer JLT.

For the first time, HRA was granted a seat at the National Integrity Equine Welfare Advisory Group - the Australian Racing Board's principal advisor, charged with leading a more uniform approach to the development of standards for both horse racing codes (HRA and ARB).

However, there is still much work to be done in this area to educate the community, business, government and media about the economic and social contribution of harness racing and harness racing events.

Clever marketing and public relations are also needed to promote the industry's many positive aspects and great human interest stories.

### **Generate and drive interest in harness racing**

Success in this area can only be achieved if the fragile balance of supporting and nurturing the industry's grassroots is matched with responding to consumer trends for an improved commercial outcome.

In this regard, the rationale is clear:-

- Promote a national approach and adherence to handicapping and race programming.
- Generate exciting and competitive racing.
- Matching racing product with consumer demands.
- Product innovation.
- Drive commercial returns.

So, HRA has facilitated a collaborative approach to product development as well as providing guidance and policy direction that promotes continuous improvement of, and commitment to, a national racing and wagering strategy which optimises available racing talent.

It is also clear that to supply the current level of racing product into the future, more horses are needed.

Recent handicapping changes have helped, but there is no quick fix - more on this later in the breeding strategy.

High quality events also need to be nurtured.

Grand Circuit and Inter Dominion racing must maximise participation (by horses, people and the media) and

commercial returns while enhancing the harness racing brand.

The feature race program structure also needs to be well organised to maximise participation by elite horses.

To this end, an "Inter Dominion Options Paper" has already been circulated to members and HRNZ for comment.

Once responses have been received, workshops will be conducted before the members determine the future of the Inter Dominion post-2012 at the HRA Annual General Meeting (on October 18) in Hobart.

The industry also needs to embrace technology to enhance harness racing's "reach".

In tandem with industry marketing managers, HRA is developing a national technology plan to promote and distribute harness racing information and content to new markets via the utilisation of existing and emerging technologies, including mobile handsets and internet television programs.

By extension, HRA has been exploring product innovation.

This can be scary territory for many, but the industry needs to be active and open to programming and format innovations that have the potential to enhance harness racing's appeal.

New racing formats such as one-lap Hot Shot Racing (a harness racing version of T20 cricket), non-traditional betting options and equipment enhancements are just some of the advancements which need to be assessed.

HRA will also maintain meaningful relations with political leaders who have an interest in, and the capacity to influence, future direction and support of the Australian harness racing industry.

Engaging with all levels of government on the E.I. vaccination issue won a massive reprieve for all harness racing industry participants, however, the Commonwealth Government has made it clear that failure by the equine industry to find consensus on a levy mechanism to support the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement by December 1, 2010 will lead to this issue being re-visited – so there is much work to be done!

HRA has also been an active participant in a number of Senate Inquiries, including EADRA and Quarantine/Bio-security Services.

No certainty has yet been provided by the Commonwealth Government for the high risk horse import quarantine program post-2015, however, current arrangements are unlikely to continue and the harness industry needs protection and confidence in future arrangements.

In a related topic, HRA remains at the forefront of discussions regarding the future of a Hendra virus vaccine.

**“our industry's important 'shop window' has been vastly improved”**

### **Attract, develop and keep people in the harness racing industry**

This too is a complex issue.

However, the starting point is recognition that today's youth are the future of harness racing, yet only 10 percent of registered participants are under the age of 26.

To reach and attract them, harness racing needs to be promoted as a positive and exciting industry – leveraging the attractive and competitive racing discussed earlier which appeals to existing and new audiences.

HRA will be working with members to promote active involvement and interest among new and existing participants at all levels – licence holders, punters, owners, administrators etc... by providing positive experiences, more opportunities and greater rewards.

One simple strategy is acknowledging the valuable contribution by harness racing's vital volunteer base of administrators, stewards, trackmen, barrier attendants and caterers through a recognition program.

Recent market research also highlighted the opportunity to build a strong commercial network among existing participants.

The introduction of a loyalty program will provide value and rewards for existing participants, while building strong networks and providing leveraging opportunities for sponsors and commercial partners.

The industry also needs to nurture emerging talent.

This young talent, whether participants or administrators, breeders or technicians, has a vital future role to play and needs to be encouraged with easy access to excellent training, accreditation programs and experiences with tangible outcomes and rewards.

### **Ensure HRA has a strong and sustainable financial base**

Building a solid, growing and sustainable financial base will provide HRA with the resources and flexibility to deliver the programs and initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

During 2010, a healthy surplus was recorded which will assist in rebuilding HRA's balance sheet.

However, given a number of industry challenges and the dynamic economic landscape, we need to grow our existing revenue streams and reduce the reliance on member funds.

Broadening harness racing's revenue base by introducing new streams, actively evaluating, prioritising and tapping commercial innovations, resource efficiencies, intellectual property, branding opportunities and industry structures will maximise these areas of our operations.

The shared State database is the perfect example of an initiative which has untapped potential and will be road tested for operational efficiencies and reduced duplication through foal registration and naming services.

### **Develop strategies to stimulate ownership and breeding of standardbred horses in Australia**

As alluded to earlier, more horses are required to ensure delivery of similar product levels in coming years.

Handicapping has helped, but vibrant breeding operations and ownership incentives are the key to growing the existing race horse population.

HRA is fostering strategies aimed at improving foal numbers, racing opportunities and ownership benefits to cultivate and motivate investment at this important level.

The HRA Executive's establishment of an Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel was the first step in the process.

The hand-picked panel is assessing the health of the breeding industry and developing a baseline from which future assessments can be made via industry participation in surveys and ongoing submission projects.

Attitudes and future trends will also be investigated before a plan and priority list is implemented.

Building upon the existing horse population via the outcomes of this review will allow the harness racing industry to maximise product offerings and in turn revenue, which increases commercial returns to participants at all levels.

**In closing** the curtain on 2009/10, I wish to acknowledge the generosity of sponsors across all industry sectors, but I must commend the special support of Justin Thompson and the team at Ridley AgriProducts who, through the Barastoc brand are the naming rights sponsors of the Barastoc Grand Circuit until 2011.

The continued success and respect HRA enjoys is also dependent on a large number of people who contribute so willingly to the national harness racing industry.

I sincerely thank the numerous HRA committee members, led by their respective Chairmen in John Schreck (Chairmen of Stewards), John Doherty (Prohibited Substance Review Panel), Peter Bourke (Equine Breeding, Animal Welfare and Registration), Dean Cooper (National Rules) and John Bagshaw (Australian Standardbred Breeding Industry Panel) for their significant contribution, wise counsel and patience throughout the year.

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

As mentioned last year, the business of harness racing rarely stops, making the dedication and continued commitment of the HRA Executive even more remarkable.

Again I offer my deepest thanks to you all, and in particular I acknowledge HRA Chairman, Geoff Want for providing outstanding support and sharing his immeasurable knowledge and experience.

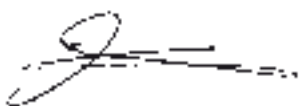
Finally, to all the staff at HRA – thank you.

Thank you for your tireless efforts and complete commitment to the harness racing industry.

So, on the back of an exciting and progressive year in 2009/10, the year ahead will again challenge not only HRA, but all harness racing administrators to find the opportunities which exist within the many threats facing the industry.

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

There is much to be done in these areas.



**Andrew Kelly**  
Chief Executive



Photo courtesy of Gold Coast Bulletin.

**“a healthy surplus was recorded which will assist in rebuilding HRA’s balance sheet”**

# Harness Racing Australia



Harness Racing Australia is the peak organisation for the promotion of harness racing in Australia.

## HRA has a small but dedicated team located in Melbourne and comprising:-

Andrew Kelly	Chief Executive Officer
Gary Kairn	Operations Manager (appointed May 10, 2010)
Julie Davies	Central Registrar
Kathy Gebert	Website and Database Administrator
Laraine Rischitelli	Naming and Publications
Sylvia Gill	Administration Assistance

## The mission statement of the HRA is:-

- Peak Body – to be the peak body for the Australian harness racing industry;
- Governance – to encourage the highest standards of professionalism and corporate citizenship in the management of our industry;
- Membership – to provide outstanding representation, advice and service to our members in a cost efficient manner;
- Influence – to present a strong, united and influential voice on behalf of our industry;
- Integrity and Rules – to defend the reputation of the industry with strong integrity regulation and strict rule enforcement;
- Brand – to promote the value of harness racing; and
- Industry – to foster our industry's well being.













## How do we put our mission statement into day to day practice?

HRA is the peak body for the enhancement and furtherance of the sport.

We have representation on a number of national committees and regularly liaise with all levels of Government and other key influential organisations.

As a registered incorporated body we are bound by strict reporting and audit requirements.

We have very strict internal governance requirements, provide regular working and financial updates and are answerable to our members – the following State controlling bodies and the principal clubs:-

-  Harness Racing New South Wales being the controlling body for harness racing in New South Wales
-  Harness Racing Victoria being the controlling body for harness racing in Victoria
-  Racing Queensland being the controlling body for harness racing in Queensland
-  Harness Racing South Australia being the controlling body for harness racing in South Australia
-  Racing and Wagering Western Australia being the controlling body for harness racing in Western Australia
-  Tasracing Pty Ltd – jointly with Racing Services Tasmania – being the controlling body for harness racing in Tasmania
-  New South Wales Harness Racing Club
-  HRV Management Ltd
-  Albion Park Harness Racing Club
-  South Australian Harness Racing Club
-  Western Australian Trotting Association
-  Tasmanian Pacing Club

In addition, we provide service to our members and the harness racing industry generally in the following areas:-

- Representation on national forums;
- Creation, maintenance and keeper of the stud book;
- Updating of HRA web site and HRA On-line;
- Naming and importing of horses;
- Administration of DNA testing for parenting determination; and
- Product testing, safety and industry insurance.

We strive to influence by being active in external organisations and making formal comment and response where appropriate.

We have a representative on the Agrifoods Australia Racing Industry Standing Committee, serve as a member of Animal

Health Australia and during the last 12 months have prepared detailed submissions to the Senate Standing Committees in relation to Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and Bio-security and Quarantine Arrangements.

HRA also prepared a submission to the Primary Industry Ministerial Committee in relation to the threat of Equine Influenza and the Productivity Commission with regards to the public inquiry into gambling.

Each of the submissions is available on the HRA website – [www.harness.org.au](http://www.harness.org.au)

We act with integrity when speaking about and promoting the importance of harness racing.

We are active in ensuring both the consistency of, and strict adherence to the rules of racing.

We chair annual stewards' conferences to promote regular discussion of integrity-related issues across all racing precincts.

We are working with the breeding industry – a crucial component of the overall harness racing industry – to look at long-term sustainability.

We respect the HRA brand as a highly valuable asset, recognise the importance of promotion and marketing, & actively strive to remain innovative and exciting while attracting new sponsors.

And we ensure that the health, welfare and safety of participants is paramount by pursuing optimum insurance standards and safety measures for products which are introduced to the market.

The HRA website contains a wealth of information. In the 2009 / 10 year the HRA website had almost 15 million "hits" in 2009 / 10, mostly relating to on-line reports, horse performance and progeny details. HRA will continue to ensure that information is available in a useful and useable format.

Racing is Australia's fourth largest industry with some 117,000 employees directly employed.

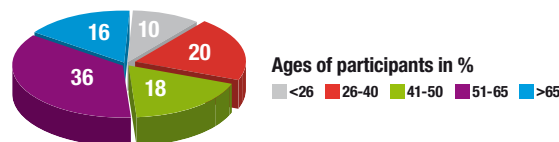
Within harness racing alone, there are almost 8000 registered participants comprising trainers, drivers and stable hands.

In addition, there are in excess of 40,000 owners and vast employment opportunities provided at State controlling bodies, harness racing clubs and stables as well as the allied service industries.

Further underpinning the harness racing industry's significant economic contribution is the fact that a significant portion of its business is conducted in rural and regional Australia.

HRA is working on ways to better understand the industry's participants, to monitor and identify trends while enhancing and building on its ongoing and future training and insurance needs.

The following age demographics are particularly interesting and show that more than half of the industry's participants are aged 50 plus while only 10 percent are under 26:-



HRA has also undertaken research to establish the location of participants which showed a concentration in two States – Victoria and New South Wales:-



The data has been further broken down to identify participant numbers within specific licence categories which is valuable when addressing issues such as Occupational Health and Safety:-



Did you know that in 2009/10, the Australian harness racing industry:-

- Conducted 1933 meetings spread across 90 tracks in six States;
- Programmed 15,619 races with total prize money in excess of \$101 million;
- Races for trotters accounted for seven percent of all races run with trotters racing in each state except Tasmania;
- Victoria had the highest percentage of trotting races with 16 percent of all races being run;
- Had 8000 registered participants involved at many levels ranging from full-time professional to part-time hobbyist;
- Provided significant employment opportunities, with particular emphasis on country regions;
- Offered valuable support to the local economy through the provision of goods and services;
- Has significant relationships with allied industries;
- Utilised volunteer labour and support services in a range of areas; and
- Was proudly administered, guided and promoted by Harness Racing Australia.

# Standardbred Prejudice

Boof-headed, ill-gaited, ugly cart horses who cannot and will not ever excel under saddle. That's how a significant percentage of the horse community still view the standardbred.

Unlike their thoroughbred cousins who have long been desired outside racing circles for a wide and varied range of riding pursuits, the usefulness of a “trotter” – as most still call them – for anything other than the purpose for which they were bred has traditionally been limited.

Thankfully, perceptions are slowly changing and through the efforts of a rapidly growing number of dedicated standardbred devotees, the amazing versatility of a once humble horse is being discovered.

Organisations like:-

- The Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association of Victoria which has more than 120 members;
- Queensland's Association for Trotters Exiting Racing which has 59 member groups;
- Raising The Standards (in Victoria) which attracts 1000 plus website hits weekly and has secured a bright future for over 60 horses in its first year;
- Second Chance Standies (Queensland); and
- Kalimbah Standardbreds in New South Wales who have re-trained and re-homed more than 70 off-the-track pacers and trotters in the past five years.

"While standardbreds have been a part of the pleasure and performance scene for many years, they are definitely more prolific and have a higher profile today," AFTER spokesperson Caroline Jeffs suggested.

"They are much more accepted by the wider equine community and this is reflected in the increased prices for pleasure standardbreds in recent years," she added

"When I started, some of the questions about standardbreds were so far removed from the realms of the truth that I felt like I was fighting an uphill battle," Nicole Jovanovic from Raising The Standards recalled.

"But more and more people are starting to wake up and appreciate the many benefits of standardbred ownership – in the past year, the amount of accurate and positive information about the breed in the public domain has skyrocketed," she said.

Tannyth Shackell from Second Chance Standies gets a lot of inquiries from people who have heard good reports about standardbreds and want a mount suitable for beginner or nervous riders.

"Views are definitely changing, and standies are becoming more well-known for their ability to become great pleasure riding horses," she suggested

Ninety five percent of Pieta Manning's Kalimbah Standardbred clients are trail riders who have no interest in showing or performance sports.

"That's where I feel the standardbred has a real niche – the pleasure horse field.

"I teach riding and trail riding skills and many of the people who come have never ridden a standardbred before.

"They are always impressed by how calm and responsive they are to ride," she said.

"My family is also involved with the Australian Trail Horse Riders' Association and we often get compliments about how well our horses go on big rides – it's a big surprise when we lift the mane and show off our freezebrands!"

However, there is still much work to be undertaken to break down inaccurate stereotypes and gain widespread acceptance of the breed in the broader equine world.

"When I started breaking standies to saddle and trying to sell them, I had people openly laugh at me – the only people interested were those looking for a cheap horse," Manning recalled.

"It was only through the launch of my website and a greater availability of information about standies via the internet that perceptions started to change.

"I very rarely advertise horses now which is encouraging; most people contact me because they've researched the breed and are specifically looking for the standardbred temperament," she said.

"An increase in the number of standardbred shows, and the success of State-based breed Associations has also helped to promote the standardbred as a riding horse, no doubt."

Queensland is one of a number of States with a strong standardbred show movement which is helping to demonstrate the willingness, trainability, athleticism, durability, consistency, calmness, intelligence and trustworthiness of "trotters" – not to mention how handsome and refined the modern breed has become.

"But the reality is that the majority of our horses are used for trail/pleasure riding and not for competition.

"There is still a perception that while standardbreds have great temperaments, they do not have the ability or movement to excel in formal competition," Jeffs acknowledged.

"The only way this will really change is by standardbred owners educating their horses and themselves and by competing (and competing well) in open events," she said.

"Over the past show season, I received some terrific feedback from the standardbred class judges – people who would normally work with warmbloods, arabs and stock



**“Views are definitely changing, and standies are becoming more well-known for their ability to become great pleasure riding horses”**

horses - who said it was great to see us out there promoting the breed," Shackell revealed.

"It has been terrific to compete against other breeds in disciplines like dressage, jumping and sporting and actually win/place – there are those who are still quite offended to be beaten by a standie, but on the upside lots of people are opening their eyes to our horses in a positive way."



Moving forward, the harness racing industry has an important role to play in providing "a life beyond the racetrack" for standardbreds.

"In Queensland we have two official standardbred organisations running adoption programs and more than 500 horses have passed through since the first program commenced in 2002," Jeffs said.

"It would help us, and other individuals who re-train and re-home these wonderful horses, enormously if our work was promoted by the industry's governing bodies and became an official arm of the harness racing industry," she suggested.

Maree Lund from SPPHAV believes the industry has a moral responsibility to promote standardbreds as pleasure horses.

"It would be great to see harness racing owners, trainers and drivers take an interest in what these horses can do under saddle, and perhaps consider providing financial assistance to support groups like SPPHAV and Raising The Standards," she suggested.



Jovanovic agrees, but would also like to see greater responsibility accepted by industry participants.

"Trainers in particular can help by making themselves available to non-racing groups and individuals for discussion and information sharing, so that we in turn can accurately educate the public about standardbreds in retirement," she said. "I believe there needs to be a lot more education of the horse industry, racing industry and general public of the potential of standardbreds beyond the track," Manning said.

"And it's important that those with an interest in the breed are educated about the particular needs of these horses when being broken to saddle," she added.



"I believe there is a lack of understanding of the previous training and conditioning of these horses which leads to so many of the misconceptions about standardbreds under saddle.

"The racing industry needs to recognise the current interest in the breed and look at developing and supporting systems which make it easier for owners and trainers to source homes for suitable horses."

Harness Racing Australia's ongoing commitment to the welfare of its racing population includes increased advocacy of the standardbred as a pleasure horse.

HRA recognises a need to provide alternate avenues for horses who reach the end of their racing life and those who fail to measure up as racing propositions.



## Success Stories

### Motu Armbró Scott

**124 starts, 12 wins, \$85,614 stakes.**

#### By Tannyth Shackell

I got "Scotty" from (trainer) Shaun Gillespie in April 2010 after he had finished a successful racing career at age 10.

I put Scotty under saddle straight away and he was fantastic.

I just pleasure rode him to start with but after beginning flatwork training, noticed his potential - he has amazing movement and when he is collected and going softly he is very eye catching!

Our first outing was Lowood Show where we competed in the standardbred classes - there wasn't a big turnout but we came home with Reserve Champion Led Gelding and Champion Under Saddle.

Just four months off the track, we placed third in our very first dressage test, at the Standardbred State Championships.

At the same event, he placed in led, novice riding, showjumping and sporting classes, to finish in the Top 5 Most Successful Exhibits of the Show.

We still have a lot of work to do as Scotty is quite a highly strung horse and can be full on, but I'm looking forward to a very exciting 2011.

### Ultimate Mark

**66 starts, 19 wins, \$195,589 stakes.**

#### By Nicole Jovanovic.

"Jack" is a very loving, friendly horse who really settled in to life at Raising The Standards.

He was fuss-free to start under saddle and really tried his best to please.

He took to riding with intelligence and a willingness to learn.

We were inundated with enquiries for Jack (25 plus) just two weeks after he was broken to saddle.

He has gone to live in Werribee at the same agistment centre as another RTS mount.

He will be used for pleasure riding, dressage lessons and Adult Riders' Club.

### Hotman Shadow

**14 starts, 2 placings, \$595 stakes.**

#### By Pieta Manning.

"Shadow" is probably our most exciting recent graduate.

We donated him to a member of the NSW Police Force and he will be starting duties in the Mounted Police later this year.

He will complete six months of country duties before going to Sydney to be accredited in March 2011 - at which time he will become the first standardbred in the NSW Mounted Police Force.



### Standie-tana

#### By Caroline Jeffs

A fabulous success story which demonstrates the importance and value of pleasure associations was "Standie-tana".

The event was hosted by the Association For Trotters Exiting Racing in April 2010.

We believe it may have been the first event of its type in Australia (but definitely Queensland) targeted specifically at standardbred owners.

It was an educational weekend which covered many areas of horse ownership and re-training of the breed.

We received great feedback from both the participants and the presenters/trainers who were involved.

As a result of the fantastic response, we intend to make Standie-tana an annual event for standardbred owners and will alter the program content each year.



**"It would be great to see harness racing owners, trainers and drivers take an interest in what these horses can do under saddle"**



# Young Driver Talent

If the harness racing industry's future rests in the skilful hands of its latest generation of reinsmen and women, the years ahead will indeed be prosperous. Rarely has a single racing season produced the wealth of young driving talent which was displayed across the nation in 2009/10. To coin a term better known among vigneronns than in horse circles, it was indeed a vintage year.

**Outstanding Victorian Greg Sugars led the Gen Y stampede, finishing sixth on the National Driving Premiership and confirming his arrival as the Garden State's newest superstar.**

Long touted as a champion in the making, the relaxed former South Australian took the hype in his stride to finish the season with in excess of 200 wins and in the elite company of drivers the ilk of Daryl Douglas, Chris Alford, Grant Dixon, David Harding, Chris Lewis and Gavin Lang at the top of the tally board.

In fact, the National Top 20 was littered with outstanding young reinsmen and women.

Ashlee Siejka etched her name into the record books when she became the first female to drive a century of wins in New South Wales in a single season.

Her achievement was later mirrored by fellow NSW reinswoman Amanda Turnbull and the dynamic duo – who dominated their home State's racing in the 2009/10 season – finished in 11th and 18th position respectively on the Australian premiership.

Leading Queensland reinsman Peter McMullen also enjoyed a bumper year while the State celebrated the emergence of teenage driving sensation Chantal Turpin.

West Australian star Morgan Woodley was the nation's leading young driver on the basis of stakes earned by his horses, a figure which topped an astonishing \$1.4 million for the racing year.

He finished 19th on the National Premiership with 126 wins and had more drives (1115) than any other reinsman or reinswoman in the State in 2009/10.

In Tasmania, 25-year-old Gareth Rattray's unprecedented domination continued, notching a fifth consecutive State Drivers' Premiership in addition to his second Australasian Young Drivers' Championship title.

He was one of five young drivers to finish the season in the State's Top 10: Nathan Ford shattered his previous best (22) with 55 local wins, plus three Victorian successes; Todd Rattray achieved a personal best tally of 33; Erin Hollaway finished Top 10 for a third consecutive season with 30 wins; and ex-pat Victorian Mark Yole returned to Tasmania in late January and registered 26 wins in just seven months.

Mount Gambier teenager Jayson Finnis claimed his initial South Australian Young Drivers' Premiership and achieved a season highlight when he piloted King Grin to victory in the \$50,000 Southern Cross Final for two-year-old colts' and geldings.

SA's concession driving ranks are bursting with exciting prospects like Matthew Smith, Michael A. Smith, Aaron Bain, Ken Rogers and Jake Webster.

The industry was saddened to see the driving career of gifted South Australian former Junior Driver, Danielle Hill, end as the result of a race fall at Globe Derby Park in May 2010. Danielle was the 2009 Australasian Young Drivers Champion and an outstanding talent in the sulky. Danielle is an exceptional young woman and has shown enormous courage in the face of this setback and with the support of her family and close associates is on the road to recovery. The whole industry is behind Danielle and wishes her all the best into the future where she will no doubt continue to make a name for herself given her training abilities and administration skills.



**“the National Top 20 was littered with outstanding young reinsmen and women.”**



# Two-Year-Old Racing

Does the harness racing industry care about its horses?  
Is animal welfare an important issue to those in positions of authority?

**They're questions which the wider community is entitled to both ask and expect to be answered with honesty and integrity. Harness Racing Australia, as the governing body, is acutely aware of its responsibility to the welfare of standardbreds in this country.**

Without horses, there is no harness racing industry.

And without a widespread public acceptance that our animals are treated humanely and with respect, the livelihood of thousands of breeders, trainers, drivers and stablehands nation-wide would be jeopardised.

HRA therefore welcomed a study by Dr Peter Knight from the Discipline of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Sydney's Medical School which investigated the impact of two-year-old racing on the long-term career of standardbred horses.

The study challenged the belief that a horse's racing life

was likely to be shortened if it started racing at two – the earliest age at which standardbreds are permitted to compete in Australia.

It strived to establish whether a two-year-old pacer or trotter's level of physical maturity limited its suitability for racing and training and/or made it more susceptible to injury.

Dr Knight undertook a retrospective analysis of all raced foals born in New South Wales in the 2000 stud season – 56 percent of which were male and 44 percent of which were female.

He used the average number of days between starts across a horse's career as an indicator of injury and/or the horse's ability to cope with training and racing.

It is Dr Knight's belief that injuries force trainers to remove horses from the racing population and horses experiencing greater stress associated with racing have a longer recovery



period (and therefore race less frequently) and are spelled more often.

He found that 43.9 percent of the selected group of horses made their race track debut as two-year-olds while 33.9 percent first raced at age three.

The study showed that males, and horses which first raced as two-year-olds earned significantly more prize money than females, and horses which commenced racing age three or over.

Furthermore, males and horses which first raced as two-year-olds had significantly more career starts than females, and horses which commenced racing age three and over.

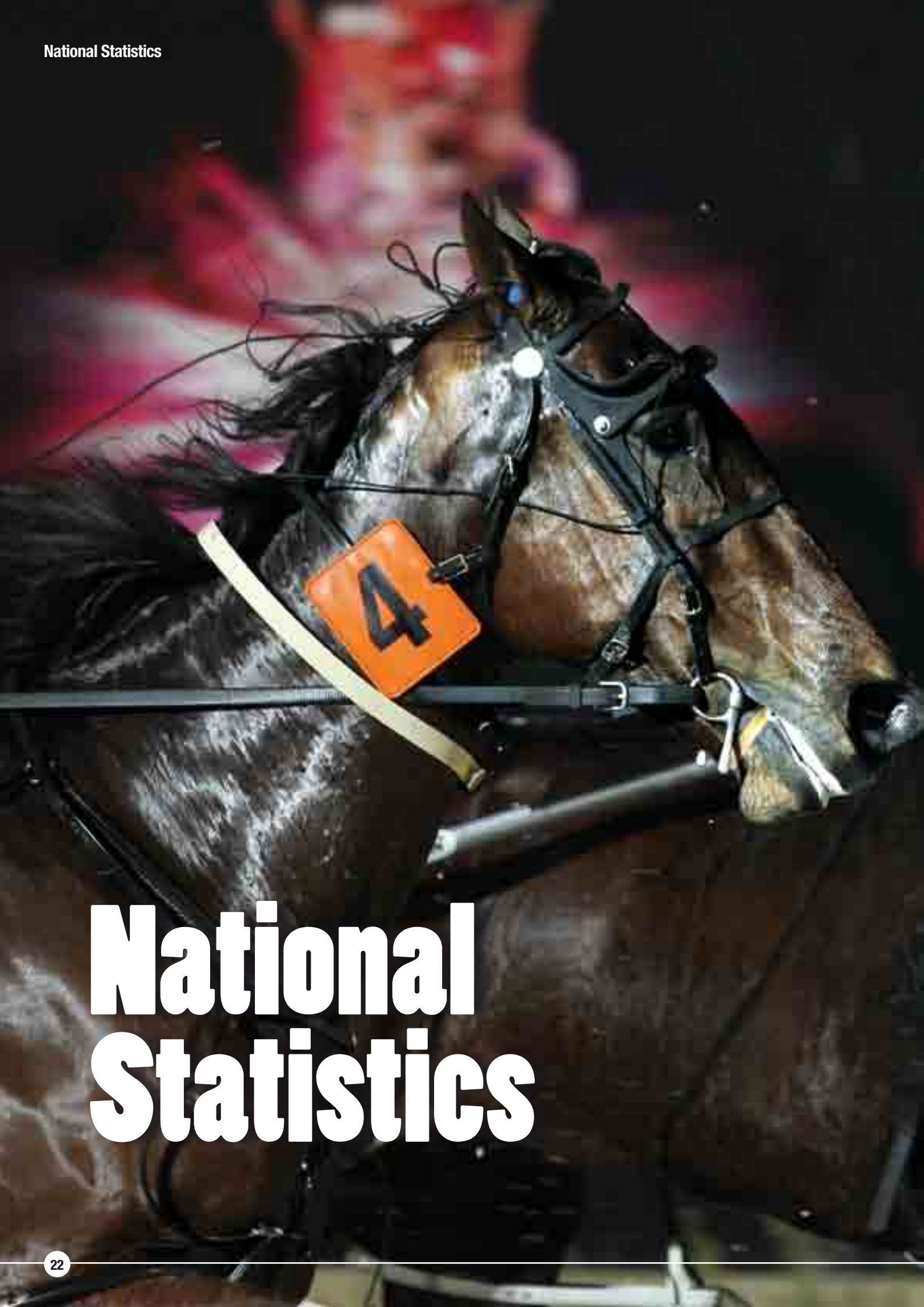
Dr Knight therefore concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that racing as a two-year-old had any deleterious effect on a standardbred's career.

HRA was encouraged by the study findings, particularly given that over the past decade there have been major improvements in the design and maintenance of Australian harness racing tracks.

Larger tracks utilising state-of-the-art design technology (such as those recently constructed at Melton in Victoria and Menangle in New South Wales) enable all horses including two-year-olds to perform to their optimum under the lowest possible physical stress levels.

It could therefore be concluded that a study mirroring Dr Knight's thesis but following the career of horses born in the 2010 stud season would deliver overwhelming evidence to support HRA's expectation that the nation's standardbred population is carefully and appropriately managed.

**“Horses which raced as two-year-olds had longer careers and more starts”**



# National Statistics

## Wagering Summary: 2003/2004 - 2009/2010

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
National Wagering Turnover	\$1,813,372,040	\$1,855,917,017	\$1,847,795,444	\$1,963,601,713	\$1,747,292,165	\$1,997,501,561	\$1,999,606,294
% Change by year		2.35%	-0.44%	6.27%	-11.02%	14.32%	0.11%

## 2009/2010 Top 10 Broodmare Sires - by Dollars Earned

Broodmare Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Aust		2YO		3YO		3YO	
					Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
HOLMES HANOVER USA	383	245	580	\$3,625,185	24	11	18	\$136,482	71	37	84	\$516,960
FAKE LEFT USA	267	164	453	\$3,236,506	53	27	58	\$610,487	77	48	126	\$777,811
CLASSIC GARRY	376	182	477	\$2,974,831	52	22	51	\$600,852	94	42	134	\$792,316
SOKYS ATOM USA	246	146	387	\$2,934,563	21	8	11	\$87,866	42	18	48	\$261,238
FALCON SEELSTER USA	167	108	302	\$2,848,076	22	12	23	\$235,517	29	17	40	\$434,182
WHAT'S NEXT USA	338	191	451	\$2,747,137	38	12	25	\$562,894	66	38	78	\$397,773
SAFELY KEPT USA	265	150	370	\$2,611,407	51	16	28	\$356,154	82	52	116	\$686,290
TROUBLEMAKER USA	224	124	288	\$2,270,619	34	11	29	\$463,177	48	26	60	\$393,845
SMOOTH FELLA USA	181	101	262	\$2,048,341	10	3	3	\$19,728	21	7	29	\$185,384
VANSTON HANOVER USA	186	103	261	\$2,040,018	26	9	16	\$122,015	43	26	67	\$297,384

## 2009/2010 Top 10 Starters - by Dollars Earned

Name	Sex	Starts	Wins	Season Best Mile Rate	Aust Season Prizemoney	*Career Prizemoney
BLACKS A FAKE	Gelding	15	12	1:53.8MS	\$778,623	\$4,179,733
MONKEY KING NZ	Gelding	5	3	1:50.8MS	\$560,000	\$2,759,535
HAS THE ANSWERS	Gelding	47	24	1:53.3MS	\$451,422	\$743,524
SMOKEN UP NZ	Gelding	17	8	1:50.9MS	\$442,244	\$1,224,610
ROYAL VERDICT (2YO)	Colt	10	7	1:55.0MS	\$437,195	\$437,195
WASHAKIE NZ	Gelding	19	7	1:54.2MS	\$430,376	\$764,250
IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ	Gelding	12	6	1:55.8MS	\$374,935	\$747,939
BETTORS STRIKE NZ	Gelding	6	4	1:55.7MS	\$369,812	\$753,913
BONDY NZ	Gelding	5	4	1:57.6MS	\$363,500	\$681,251
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	Gelding	11	8	TR1:56.3MS	\$345,875	\$1,019,593

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

## 2009/2010 Top 10 Sires - by Dollars Earned

Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Aust		2YO		3YO		3YO	
					Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney	Starters	Winners	Wins	Prizemoney
VILLAGE JASPER USA	432	242	615	\$3,759,598	47	14	19	\$175,409	74	39	98	\$488,676
LIVE OR DIE USA	284	174	422	\$3,590,517	18	7	15	\$202,413	20	15	27	\$195,626
CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ	248	176	525	\$3,450,902	15	10	27	\$188,995	35	25	53	\$228,473
ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA	412	235	573	\$3,220,973	34	11	16	\$105,501	48	28	69	\$383,534
COURAGE UNDER FIRE NZ	178	124	372	\$2,577,205	11	2	5	\$54,946	55	35	107	\$918,572
ART MAJOR USA	143	78	234	\$2,373,206	54	26	63	\$933,403	89	52	171	\$1,439,802
MACH THREE CA	132	93	261	\$2,103,332	16	8	15	\$138,729	42	29	82	\$830,454
PANORAMA USA	223	123	312	\$2,044,968	3	0	0	\$1,934	23	11	35	\$166,992
BADLANDS HANOVER USA	129	80	209	\$1,940,912	4	3	5	\$27,854	25	13	39	\$281,935
BETTORS DELIGHT USA	93	66	162	\$1,937,328	61	40	82	\$1,120,035	6	3	14	\$69,851

# Pacers

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

Season	One Mile		Greater Than One Mile		Total	
	2.00.0 PERFORMANCES	2.00.0 HORSES	2.00.0 PERFORMANCES	2.00.0 HORSES	PERFORMANCES	HORSES
2009/2010	1101	831	3230	1826	4331	2372
2008/2009	985	752	2576	1498	3561	2250
2007/2008**	547	469	2016	1248	2485	1795
2006/2007*	595	488	2376	1408	2003	1896
2005/2006	495	408	2176	1337	2671	1745
2004/2005	532	449	2021	1253	2553	1702
2003/2004	416	352	1632	1027	2048	1379
2002/2003	459	372	1265	838	1724	1210
2001/2002	488	387	1068	721	1556	1108
2000/2001	362	295	1092	717	1454	1012
1999/2000	378	294	1041	699	1419	993
1998/1999	351	277	911	597	1262	874
1997/1998	292	233	754	532	1046	765
1996/1997	288	232	731	499	1019	731
1995/1996	258	209	493	356	751	565
1994/1995	196	165	379	263	575	428
1993/1994	215	182	412	289	627	471
1992/1993	214	171	285	193	499	364
1991/1992	195	167	336	242	531	409

\*Season Dates: 1/09/2006 - 2/09/2007. Harness Racing suspended in all States from 25/08/07 to 30/08/07 owing to Equine Influenza outbreak. Racing resumed on 31/08/07 in Victoria, SA, WA and Tas.

\*\*Season Dates: 3/09/2007 - 31/08/2008. Due to Equine Influenza outbreak, full-time racing suspended in QLD and NSW in first 3-4 months of the season.

## 2009/2010 Top 20 Fastest - Pacers

Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
MONKEY KING NZ	7YO	GELDING	1:50.8MS	MILE	29/11/2009	R T MAY	B R HILL	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SMOKEN UP NZ	7YO	GELDING	1:50.9MS	MILE	23/04/2010	L J JUSTICE	L J JUSTICE	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MAGIC OPERATIVE	5YO	GELDING	1:51.2MS	MILE	07/03/2010	N A DAY	N A DAY	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MR FEELGOOD USA	7YO	COLT	1:52.1MS	1660M	26/06/2010	L A MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	ALBION PARK (QLD)
VILLAGEM	4YO	GELDING	1:52.1MS	MILE	30/07/2010	L M MILES	L M MILES	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MAYWYN JASPER	3YO	GELDING	1:52.7MS	MILE	07/03/2010	N C RASMUSSEN	S T SANDERSON	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
BE DILIGENT	6YO	GELDING	1:52.8MS	1660M	13/07/2010	L J WEIDEMANN	C E M MARTIN	ALBION PARK (QLD)
LONESTAR LEGEND USA	5YO	COLT	1:53.0MS	MILE	29/01/2010	B P FITZPATRICK	P R J FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MAKE MINE CULLEN	4YO	FILLY	1:53.0MS	MILE	23/04/2010	D K DOUGLAS	G F DOUGLAS	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
MR FEELGOOD USA	7YO	COLT	1:53.1MS	1660M	29/05/2010	L A MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	ALBION PARK (QLD)
FEW GOOD MEN	6YO	GELDING	1:53.2MS	1720M	26/03/2010	B R GATH	P W TONKIN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
BE DILIGENT	6YO	GELDING	1:53.3MS	1660M	22/06/2010	R N MARTIN	C E M MARTIN	ALBION PARK (QLD)
HAS THE ANSWERS	7YO	GELDING	1:53.3MS	1670M	01/03/2010	A C LEWIS	T SVILICICH	PINJARRA (WA)
BROADWAYS BEST	4YO	FILLY	1:53.6MS	1720M	21/05/2010	N R JACK	S R MCLEAN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
JAZZAM	6YO	FILLY	1:53.6MS	1720M	12/03/2010	J N QUINLAN	D J QUINLAN	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
FOX VALLEY APPEAL USA	7YO	GELDING	1:53.7MS	1660M	27/03/2010	B M COWEN	D L SMITH	ALBION PARK (QLD)
MELPARK MAJOR	6YO	GELDING	1:53.7MS	1720M	06/11/2009	G R SUGARS	A R TUBBS	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
BLACKS A FAKE	9YO	GELDING	1:53.8MS	2300M	07/03/2010	N C RASMUSSEN	N C RASMUSSEN	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GENUWINE USA	5YO	COLT	1:53.8MS	MILE	29/01/2010	C J FITZPATRICK	A R RUGGARI	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
GREYSTEEL NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:53.8MS	1720M	19/03/2010	K E MANNING	K E MANNING	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SAUCY LEGEND NZ	5YO	GELDING	1:53.8MS	MILE	14/11/2009	C J FITZPATRICK	P R J FITZPATRICK	NEWCASTLE (NSW)



## 2009/2010 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Pacers

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
<b>PACERS</b>							
<b>Overall</b>							
MR FEELGOOD USA (7YO)	COLT	1:52.1MS	1660M	26/06/2010	L A MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	ALBION PARK (QLD)
MAKE MINE CULLEN (4YO)	FILLY	1:53.0MS	MILE	23/04/2010	D K DOUGLAS	G F DOUGLAS	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
MONKEY KING NZ (7YO)	GELDING	1:50.8MS	MILE	29/11/2009	R T MAY	B R HILL	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
<b>4YO+</b>							
MR FEELGOOD USA (7YO)	COLT	1:52.1MS	1660M	26/06/2010	L A MCCARTHY	L A MCCARTHY	ALBION PARK (QLD)
MAKE MINE CULLEN (4YO)	FILLY	1:53.0MS	MILE	23/04/2010	D K DOUGLAS	G F DOUGLAS	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
MONKEY KING NZ (7YO)	GELDING	1:50.8MS	MILE	29/11/2009	R T MAY	B R HILL	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
<b>3YO</b>							
RENAISSANCE MAN	COLT	1:55.2MS	MILE	02/03/2010	KATE M GATH	A P GATH	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
STUNIN GIRL	FILLY	1:54.1MS	MILE	07/03/2010	GAVIN LANG	S M HUNTER	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
MAYWYN JASPER	GELDING	1:52.7MS	MILE	07/03/2010	N C RASMUSSEN	S T SANDERSON	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
<b>2YO</b>							
EXCEL STRIDE	COLT	1:55.0MS	MILE	27/06/2010	R P MORRIS	E A HEATH	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
ROYAL VERDICT	COLT	1:55.0MS	MILE	19/04/2010	I J DORNAUF	I J DORNAUF	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
SHEEZALLATTITUDE	FILLY	1:55.1MS	MILE	07/03/2010	J C BROWN	F L GALLAGHER	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
BEACH INSPECTOR	GELDING	1:56.8MS	MILE	10/05/2010	D R PERROT	D R PERROT	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
FIVE OCLOCK AFFAIR	GELDING	1:56.8MS	MILE	23/03/2010	J B OGDEN	E A HEATH	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)

## 2009/2010 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Pacers

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
<b>PACERS</b>					
<b>Overall</b>					
COLT	ROYAL VERDICT (2YO)	10	7	\$437,195	1:55.0MS
FILLY	AUSSIE MADE LOMBO (2YO)	18	9	\$315,896	1:58.1MS
GELDING	BLACKS A FAKE	15	12	\$778,623	1:53.8MS
<b>4YO+</b>					
COLT	BONAVISTA BAY	13	6	\$338,818	1:56.3MS
FILLY	MAKE MINE CULLEN	19	13	\$255,613	1:53.0MS
GELDING	BLACKS A FAKE	15	12	\$778,623	1:53.8MS
<b>3YO</b>					
COLT	FOR A REASON	17	13	\$242,982	1:55.3MS
FILLY	MILLWOOD MEG NZ	10	8	\$198,214	1:54.8MS
GELDING	COURAGE TO RULE NZ	9	3	\$193,210	1:58.7MS
<b>2YO</b>					
COLT	ROYAL VERDICT	10	7	\$437,195	1:55.0MS
FILLY	AUSSIE MADE LOMBO	18	9	\$315,895	1:58.1MS
GELDING	SUSHI SUSHI	15	7	\$234,181	1:57.0MS



# Trotters

## 2009/2010 Top 20 Fastest - Trotters

Horse	Age	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:56.3MS	MILE	07/03/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SKYVALLEY NZ	5YO	COLT	TR1:56.4MS	1720M	11/12/2009	C A LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
MISSCSHELLS NZ	6YO	FILLY	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	23/04/2010	B P FITZPATRICK	L M FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
SUNNY ELEGANT NZ	6YO	FILLY	TR1:57.2MS	MILE	22/12/2009	G J FITZPATRICK	P R J FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
CYCLONE JAKE NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:57.5MS	MILE	27/06/2010	G W BENNETT	K J PIZZUTO	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
OUR MACARTHUR PARK NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:57.6MS	MILE	12/10/2009	G W BENNETT	K J PIZZUTO	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
ARIZONA BLUE	4YO	FILLY	TR1:57.8MS	1720M	04/06/2010	J B OGDEN	D J HEATH	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:57.8MS	1720M	16/04/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
ARIZONA BLUE	4YO	FILLY	TR1:57.9MS	MILE	27/05/2010	J B OGDEN	D J HEATH	MARYBOROUGH (VIC)
CYCLONE JAKE NZ	5YO	GELDING	TR1:58.1MS	MILE	23/07/2010	G W BENNETT	K J PIZZUTO	TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW)
AFRITI	7YO	GELDING	TR1:58.2MS	2240M	26/03/2010	K L TIPPET	K L TIPPET	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	8YO	GELDING	TR1:58.7MS	2240M	04/12/2009	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
CLASSIC PLAYBOY	6YO	GELDING	TR1:58.8MS	1660M	08/05/2010	P J MCMULLEN	A S TURPIN	ALBION PARK (QLD)
CONQUER ALL NZ	7YO	GELDING	TR1:58.9MS	2240M	19/02/2010	C A ALFORD	C A ALFORD	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
I DIDNT DO IT	5YO	GELDING	TR1:58.9MS	2240M	30/07/2010	J N QUINLAN	M J WILLIAMSON	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
ACACIA RIDGE	8YO	GELDING	TR1:59.2MS	MILE	16/01/2010	G D HOBAN	G D HOBAN	BENDIGO (VIC)
ALTA SOLEIL NZ	7YO	FILLY	TR1:59.2MS	MILE	26/05/2010	L R SUTTON	A R MCINTOSH	BENDIGO (VIC)
COMPRESSOR	7YO	GELDING	TR1:59.2MS	1670M	07/06/2010	N M JOHNS	N M JOHNS	PINJARRA (WA)
SKYVALLEY NZ	5YO	COLT	TR1:59.2MS	2240M	06/11/2009	G LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)
WRATH OF ROSIE	5YO	FILLY	TR1:59.2MS	MILE	08/05/2010	A XIRIHA	P G MANNING	GEELONG (VIC)

## 2009/2010 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Trotters

Horse	Sex	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
<b>TROTTERS</b>							
<b>Overall</b>							
SKYVALLEY NZ (5YO)	COLT	TR1:56.4MS	1720M	11/12/2009	C A LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PARK, MELTON (VIC)
MISSCSHELLS NZ (6YO)	FILLY	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	23/04/2010	B P FITZPATRICK	L M FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ (8YO)	GELDING	TR1:56.3MS	MILE	07/03/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
<b>4YO+</b>							
SKYVALLEY NZ (5YO)	COLT	TR1:56.4MS	1720M	11/12/2009	C A LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PARK, MELTON (VIC)
MISSCSHELLS NZ (6YO)	FILLY	TR1:56.5MS	MILE	23/04/2010	B P FITZPATRICK	L M FITZPATRICK	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
SUNDONS GIFT NZ (8YO)	GELDING	TR1:56.3MS	MILE	07/03/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
<b>3YO</b>							
MY HIGH EXPECTATIONS USA	COLT	TR2:00.0MS	MILE	11/05/2010	C J FITZPATRICK	A R RUGGARI	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
GOOD THANKS	FILLY	TR2:03.2MS	2150M	18/03/2010	C W LANG	C W LANG	BENDIGO (VIC)
ROSTEVARREN	GELDING	TR2:00.3MS	1720M	4/06/2010	R A GRAHAM	R A GRAHAM	TABCORP PARK, MELTON (VIC)
<b>2YO</b>							
WAIKARE ARISTOCRAT	COLT	TR2:07.8MS	1800M	10/07/2010	G L MCDERMOTT	G L MCDERMOTT	GLOBE DERBY (SA)
MOYABAMBA	FILLY	TR2:03.8MS	MILE	27/04/2010	J J ALCHIN	D A KENNEDY	TABCORP PARK, MENANGLE (NSW)
KAPTIN BLY	GELDING	TR2:02.7MS	2100M	24/06/2010	P H HORNSBY	P H HORNBLY	GEELONG (VIC)

## 2009/2010 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Trotters

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
<b>TROTTERS</b>					
Overall					
COLT	SKYVALLEY NZ	8	4	\$101,875	TR1:56.4MS
FILLY	JINGLING SILVER (3YO)	10	3	\$78,000	TR2:04.2MS
GELDING	SUNDONS GIFT NZ	11	8	\$345,875	TR1:56.3MS
<b>4YO+</b>					
COLT	SKYVALLEY NZ	8	4	\$101,875	TR1:56.4MS
FILLY	WRATH OF ROSIE	32	9	\$57,325	TR1:59.2MS
GELDING	SUNDONS GIFT NZ	11	8	\$345,875	TR1:56.3MS
<b>3YO</b>					
COLT	MIAMI H NZ	4	3	\$73,710	TR2:00.7MS
FILLY	JINGLING SILVER	10	3	\$78,000	TR2:04.2MS
GELDING	ROSTEVARREN	12	8	\$68,450	TR2:00.3MS
<b>2YO</b>					
COLT	I SEE ICY EARL	10	2	\$48,750	TR2:08.7
FILLY	MOYABAMBA	9	6	\$29,720	TR2:03.8MS
GELDING	PARAMOUNT GEEGEE NZ	2	2	\$103,005	TR2:03.8MS

## 2009/2010 Top 10 Trainers - by Wins

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Metro Wins	Country Wins	Stakes	Metro Stakes	Country Stakes
DIXON B (QLD)	1307	263	233	184	148	53	210	\$1,616,510	\$784,110	\$832,399
MCCARTHY J (QLD)	644	160	113	80	48	66	94	\$1,119,858	\$753,171	\$366,687
TURNBULL S (NSW)	674	134	115	79	67	15	119	\$794,049	\$245,173	\$548,877
DOUGLAS G (VIC)	964	129	131	124	108	25	104	\$1,061,090	\$518,400	\$542,690
HALL G (SNR) (WA)	580	129	93	72	49	62	67	\$1,765,662	\$1,429,624	\$336,038
OLIVIERI R (WA)	514	115	76	58	50	47	68	\$1,230,861	\$899,880	\$330,981
FITZPATRICK P (NSW)	488	113	63	74	59	37	76	\$851,643	\$450,568	\$401,075
MANNING P (VIC)	836	109	112	101	70	20	89	\$869,860	\$407,060	\$462,800
MANNING K (VIC)	380	108	58	43	39	11	97	\$582,453	\$163,190	\$419,263
JUSTICE L (VIC)	750	105	116	71	93	24	81	\$869,068	\$490,943	\$378,125

## 2009/2010 Top 10 Drivers - by Wins

Driver & State	Starts	Metro Wins	Metro Points	Country Wins	Country Points	Total Points	Dead Heats	Total Wins	Season Prizemoney
DOUGLAS D K (VIC)	2132	28	28	294	293.5	321.5	1	322	\$2,288,931
ALFORD C A (VIC)	1455	39	39	207	207	246	0	246	\$1,859,328
DIXON G W (QLD)	1251	30	29.5	212	211	240.5	3	242	\$1,202,448
HARDING D K (SA)	925	1	1	231	230.5	231.5	1	232	\$698,672
SUGARS G R (SA)	1363	25	25	184	183.5	208.5	1	209	\$1,486,399
LEWIS A C (WA)	1058	77	77	132	131	208	2	209	\$2,116,343
LANG G (VIC)	928	44	43.5	157	156.5	200	2	201	\$2,002,502
HALL (JNR) G E (WA)	743	68	68	120	120	188	0	188	\$2,133,761
BENNETT G W (NSW)	1032	50	50	134	133.5	183.5	1	184	\$1,616,599
NEILSON M P (QLD)	1165	13	13	170	170	183	0	183	\$737,530



# 2010 AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING AWARDS

## J.D. WATTS AWARDS

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Leading Trainer of the Year

**BILL DIXON – 263 Wins**

Leading Driver of the Year

**DARYL DOUGLAS – 322 Wins**

## AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR

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### **BLACKS A FAKE**

## LAWN DERBY AWARDS - PACERS

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AGED PACER OF THE YEAR – BLACKS A FAKE

15 starts 12 wins \$778,623 1:53.8MS

AGED MARE PACER OF THE YEAR – MAKE MINE CULLEN

19 starts 13 wins \$255,613 1:53.0MS

AGED HORSE/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR – BLACKS A FAKE

15 starts 12 wins \$778,623 1:53.8MS

3YO PACER OF THE YEAR – FOR A REASON

17 starts 13 wins \$242,982 1:55.3MS

3YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR – MILLWOOD MEG NZ

10 starts 8 wins \$198,214 1:54.8MS

3YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR – FOR A REASON

17 starts 13 wins \$242,982 1:55.3MS

2YO PACER OF THE YEAR – ROYAL VERDICT

10 starts 7 wins \$437,195 1:55.0MS

2YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR – AUSSIE MADE LOMBO

18 starts 9 wins \$315,896 1:58.1MS

2YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR – ROYAL VERDICT

10 starts 7 wins \$437,195 1:55.0MS



# 2010

## AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING AWARDS CONT'D

### VANCLEVE AWARDS - TROTTERS

#### TROTTER OF THE YEAR – SUNDONS GIFT NZ

Aust Performances 11 starts 8 wins \$345,875 TR1:56.3MS  
NZ 2 starts 1 win \$148,795 TR2:04.9

#### AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR – WRATH OF ROSIE

32 starts 9 wins \$57,325 TR1:59.2MS

#### 3YO TROTTER OF THE YEAR – ROSTEVARREN

12 starts 8 wins \$68,450 TR2:00.3MS

#### 2YO TROTTER OF THE YEAR – CHATEAU DE VILLE

9 starts 5 wins \$99,075 TR2:03.7MS

### GLOBE DERBY AWARDS - SIREs

#### VILLAGE JASPER USA

Leading Sire by Stakemoney & Winners  
432 Starters 242 Winners 615 Wins \$3,759,598

#### ART MAJOR USA

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney  
89 Starters 52 Winners 171 Wins \$1,439,802

#### SUNDON USA

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney  
129 Starters 78 Winners 200 Wins \$1,724,574

### WINONA AWARD

#### Australian Broodmare of the Year

#### **Tailmade Lombo**

Tailmade Lombo (F1994) by Troublemaker USA from Butterfly Trunkey by Batman USA from Lady Meadows by Van Hall.

Overall Record: Dam of 5 of Racing Age - 4 winners 4 in 2:00  
2009/2010 Record: 4 Winners 23 Wins 25 Placings \$438,450  
Aussie Made Lombo (P1:58.1MS) 18 Starts 9 wins 9 placings \$315,896  
- 2010 Bathurst Gold Tiara \$100,000 G1 (Chris Alford) Bathurst, NSW  
- 2010 Kay Seymour Nursery Pace \$150,000 G1 (LM McCarthy) Albion Park, QLD

Lombo Crusader (P1:57.9MS) 16 Starts 7 wins 2 Placings \$42,455  
Tsunami Lombo (P1:55.3MS) 21 Starts 6 wins 7 placings \$61,010  
Yazuka (2:03.0) 16 Starts 1 Win 7 Placings \$19,089

# Barastoc Grand Circuit

It was appropriate that the “King” was crowned pacing champion of Australasian harness racing’s 2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit. Outstanding New Zealand gelding Monkey King was a model of consistency at the industry’s highest level over the course of the season and is therefore a worthy custodian of the rare honour.

**Sponsored for the past three years by Ridley Agriproducts under the banner of its premium horse feed brand Barastoc, the Grand Circuit is an annual point score series which runs over a seven-month period.**

It takes in every Group One harness race in Australia and New Zealand for both pacers and trotters, and offers more than \$5 million in prize money.

Monkey King’s near faultless season netted him victories in the New Zealand Cup and Show Day FFA, the time-honoured Miracle Mile (Australian harness racing’s premier sprint race) and the Auckland Cup.

He also recorded a fine second placing in the Inter Dominion Pacing Grand Final and an unlucky fourth in the Victoria Cup.

With four Grand Circuit successes to his credit, Monkey King was the undisputed 2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit pacing champion, finishing the season with an impressive 22 points.

At the conclusion of the elite series, he held a decisive 10 point margin over his nearest rival, fellow Kiwi Bettors Strike.

Congratulations are extended to owner Robert Famularo and his Cavalla Bloodstock Company, trainer Brendon Hill, driver Ricky May and the entire team behind the horse affectionately known as “Sam”.

The trotting division of the 2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit was dominated by all-conquering trainer Chris Lang who secured top honours in no less than four of Australasia’s nine open class Group One square-gaiting features.

Skyvalley was a deserved winner of the Bill Collins Trotters’ Sprint at Moonee Valley, but his stable mate, Sundons Gift, who took overall honours after another vintage season.

Successful in both the Australian Trotting Grand Prix and Inter Dominion Trotting Championship Grand Final, the gifted gelding proved his undisputed dominance when he crossed the Tasman and trounced his Kiwi rivals in the \$250,000 Rowe Cup at Alexandra Park.

Lang’s Aldebaran Park operation at Nagambie celebrated the Grand Circuit success in partnership with Sundons Gift (aka “Bernie’s”) Perth-based owner Neven Botica.

**2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit Results – Pacers**

Date	Race	Winner
October 9, 2009	\$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship	BLACKS A FAKE
November 11, 2009	\$1,000,000 Christchurch Casino NZ Cup	MONKEY KING
November 13, 2009	\$224,000 Woodlands Stud NZ Pacing Free for all	MONKEY KING
November 29, 2009	\$500,000 SEW-Eurodrive Miracle Mile	MONKEY KING
December 4, 2009	\$250,000 Stallion Station Fremantle Pacing Cup	IM THEMIGHTYQUINN
December 5, 2009	\$100,000 M H Treuer Memorial	WASHAKIE
December 11, 2009	\$400,000 SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup	BETTORS STRIKE
December 27, 2009	\$125,000 Wrest Point Tasmanian Pacing Cup	BETTORS STRIKE
January 8, 2010	\$125,000 Find 30 Australian Pacing Cup	HAS THE ANSWERS
January 22, 2010	\$100,000 SA Pacing Cup	MISTER ZION
January 22, 2010	\$400,000 WA Pacing Cup	WASHAKIE
January 30, 2010	\$125,000 PETstock Ballarat Pacing Cup	CININNATI KID
February 6, 2010	\$400,000 BIG 6 Hunter Cup	BONDY
March 7, 2010	\$1,000,000 WATPAC 2010 Inter Dominion Grand Final	BLACKS A FAKE
March 12, 2010	\$500,000 Trillian Trust Auckland Cup	MONKEY KING

**2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit Series – Allocated Points**

Pacers	Points
MONKEY KING	22
BETTORS STRIKE	12
BLACKS A FAKE	11
WASHAKIE NZ	11
IM THE MIGHTYQUINN NZ	10
SMOKEN UP NZ	8
KARLOO MICK	6
BONDY	5
CININNATI KID NZ	5
HAS THE ANSWERS	5
MISTER ZION NZ	5
ALZONA	3
CANT BLUFF ME	2
MR FEELGOOD USA	2
NEAREA FALCON NZ	2
TANABI BROMAC	2
TINTIN IN AMERICA NZ	2
ATOMIC ARC	1
BAILEYS DREAM NZ	1
CHANGEOVER NZ	1
DARTMOOR NZ	1
NOTASWETHORT NZ	1
OUR MALABAR NZ	1
TI VOGLIOBENE	1

**2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit Results – Trotters**

Date	Race	Winner
November 10, 2009	\$100,000 Seelite Windows and Doors NZ Trotting Free For All	SPECULATE
November 13, 2009	\$250,000 Hellers Smallgoods NZ Dominion Handicap	SPRINGBANK RICHARD
December 4, 2009	\$100,000 SEW-Eurodrive Australian Trotting Grand Prix	SUNDONS GIFT
December 11, 2009	\$50,000 Aldebaran Park Stud Bill Collins Trotters' Sprint	SKYVALLEY
December 31, 2009	\$100,000 Seelite Windows and Doors NZ National Trot	HOUDINI STAR
January 8, 2010	\$50,000 V L Dullard Trotters' Cup	DON KING
February 6, 2010	\$250,000 Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Final	SUNDONS GIFT
April 9, 2010	\$100,000 Garry Thompson/Fred Shaw NZ Trotting Championship	STYLISH MONARCH
May 7, 2010	\$250,000 Canam Rowe Cup	SUNDONS GIFT

Trotters	Points
SUNDONS GIFT NZ	17
STYLISH MONARCH NZ	7
HOUDINI STAR NZ	6
SKYVALLEY NZ	6
DON KING NZ	5
SPECULATE NZ	5
SPRINGBANK RICHARD NZ	5
ACACIA RIDGE	2
BRAIG NZ	2
KASYNOV NZ	2
LEIGHTON HEST NZ	2
RAYDON NZ	2
REAL DEAL YANKEE NZ	2
SAVE A SIXPENCE	2
SOVEREIGNTY NZ	2
WILL TRAPPER	2

**“Monkey King was the undisputed 2009/10 Barastoc Grand Circuit pacing champion”**

# Inter Dominion Pacers

Heroes are the fibre which holds the harness racing tapestry together. They inspire a new generation of enthusiasts and motivate those firmly entrenched in the industry to strive for greatness. And through one amazing, immortal performance, a champion can encapsulate the pure essence of harness racing.



**In the 2009/10 season, that hero was Blacks A Fake and the race was the \$1 million Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Grand Final at Menangle in New South Wales.**

When the horse known simply as “Blackie” recorded his fourth win in harness racing’s Holy Grail, the history books were re-written.

The impossible became possible and the unlikely dream became a reality – all thanks to one iron-willed gelding and the lady who has devoted a sizable portion of her life to facilitating his greatness.

Blacks A Fake is trained and driven by Queensland horsewoman Natalie Rasmussen whose management and care of her horse has earned universally admiration.

As resilient and durable as standardbreds are, they should not be able to compete at the industry’s highest level for as long, or with as much success as Blacks A Fake.

Indeed, he is one of just two horses in the rich history of the Inter Dominion (which dates back to 1936) to contest five consecutive series.





Photos courtesy of Trot Guide.



What's more, Blackie could easily have won every one of the Grand Finals.

On the back of victories in Hobart, Adelaide and Melbourne, he finished a brave second in front of a parochial hometown crowd on the Gold Coast in 2009 after enduring a torrid run,

But the grandest of his triumphs came at Menangle on March 7, 2010 when he saluted in a career-best 1:53.8 mile rate, incredibly at nine years of age.

Aside from being the benchmark upon which future Inter Dominion champions will be measured, Blacks A Fake is also the richest pacer in Australasian harness racing history, with career earnings of almost \$4.2 million.

He ended his eighth racing season (which concluded on August 31, 2010) with an astonishing career record of 61 wins and 15 placings from 83 starts.

Blackie's adoring trainer/driver best summed up her pride and joy in the aftermath of Inter Dominion win number four when she said: "he's just a freak, and I'm so proud of him".

**“...he's just a freak, and I'm so proud of him”**

# Inter Dominion Trotters

Sundons Gift may not be a household name in Australia, but to followers of harness racing's purest gait – the trot – he is a luminary among equine stars. Only the best of the best win back-to-back Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Finals, a feat the New Zealand-bred gelding achieved on an historic night at Moonee Valley on February 6, 2010.



**The date signalled the end of harness racing at the iconic Melbourne venue which had served as the sport's metropolitan home in Victoria since 1976.**

And Sundons Gift gave the huge crowd in attendance a moment to cherish when he claimed his second Inter Dom crown in as many years for trainer/driver Chris Lang.

Remarkably, little more than seven months earlier the popular square-gaiter had travelled to the other side of the globe to take on the world's best in Sweden's famed Elitloppet.

The Inter Dominion success headlined a stellar year for Sundons Gift who also won the \$100,000 Group One Australian Trotting Grand Prix (for an unprecedented third consecutive year),



the \$50,000 Group One Sunnyfield Trotters' Mile at Menangle and New Zealand's prized Rowe Cup.

In total, he raced 11 times in the 2009/10 season for eight wins, two placings and \$345,875 in stake earnings.

His final victory for the racing year, in the Australasian Breeders Crown Graduate Trot on August 20, took his career

earnings beyond \$1 million.

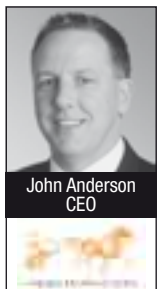
Sundons Gift, or "Bernie" as he is known to those closest to him, is the first Australian trotter to achieve the milestone.

**"Sundons Gift gave the huge crowd in attendance a moment to cherish"**



# State Reports

## Victoria



The 2009/10 season was a challenging one financially for Harness Racing Victoria. One of the few positive statistics to come from the year was that HRV's share of the TAB pari-mutuel wagering market share grew from 14.9 percent to 15.3 percent during the year.

We have now been racing at Tabcorp Park Melton, the new home of harness racing in Victoria, for a year.

Racing commenced at the \$46 million, Board-funded venue on July 5, 2009 in front of a capacity crowd with the official opening conducted by the Premier John Brumby.

Tabcorp Park has quickly established itself as a premier racing venue with excellent feedback being received from drivers, punters and spectators about the fair and fast racing as a result of the quality of the track.

The facilities at the venue have been well received and further enhancements will continue to be made.

A new multi-purpose facility is soon to be constructed adjacent to the main building to better cater for race night patrons.

The Board has also commenced a project, in partnership with the Shire of Melton, to develop the remaining 81ha of land owned by HRV adjacent to the complex for the long term financial benefit of the industry.

With the successful opening of Tabcorp Park Melton, the Board and the Moonee Valley Racing Club entered into a mutually agreeable exit strategy.

HRV conducted its farewell meeting at The Valley on February 6, 2010.

The night was a fitting tribute to harness racing's premier home for over 30 years.



As well as an outstanding night's racing, nostalgia was to the fore and a crowd not seen for many years attended to say farewell.

Soon after Moonee Valley's final night, the Hamilton Club re-opened its new 1000 metre track after a five year absence with a very successful Cup meeting in late February.

Hamilton brings to 14 the number of 1000 metre tracks in Victoria

HRV's three premier racing carnivals were once again successful:-

- The Tabcorp Australasian Breeders Crown was hosted for the first time at Tabcorp Park. The Breeders Crown paid out a total of \$2.446 million including a record \$1.528 million on Grand Final Day. A record nine Group One races were conducted in front of a pre-sold capacity crowd.

- The 2009 SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup was also held for the first time at Tabcorp Park in December and won by New Zealander Bettors Strike.

- The Big6 Hunter Cup was a feature of the 'Farewell to the Valley' night and saw Kiwi Bondy emerge victorious. New Zealand also produced the Victoria Derby winner, Courage to Rule. The locals finally had some joy when Sundons Gift won the Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Final.

The industry's top award, the Gordon Rothacker Medal, was won by Les Chapman, an outstanding contributor to harness racing in a number of capacities.

However, the award principally recognised his work at the Maryborough Club and his role in one of the industry's great events, The Redwood.

The premier Club award went to the Ballarat and District Trotting Club.

For the first time, Victoria's Horse Of The Year Awards were conducted independently of the Gordon Rothacker Medal presentation.



**“HRV's three premier racing carnivals were once again successful”**

At a function at Tabcorp Park, Melpark Major was crowned Victorian Horse Of The Year following his rise to prominence as a Grand Circuit winner.

The HRV Board underwent a significant change during the year with Neil Busse completing his term as Chairman in March 2010.

Neil took up this post in 2000 and in the ensuing decade harness racing has been through a period of strong growth.

He is to be congratulated for his contribution to the industry and we wish Neil and his wife Margaret all the best for the future.

The racing industry in general is currently being challenged by the reality of reduced returns from the current funding model.

This is due to the fact that there has been a trend in recent years reflecting a shift of wagering from Tabcorp to other operators (such as largely internet-based corporate bookmakers and other totes, who reportedly offer rebates to attract high turnover customers).

HRV recognises that the shift from the traditional tote betting (which has served the industry well for a long period) to other wagering operators is something that is beyond our control.

However, it comes at a cost to the industry by way of lower returns and, furthermore, HRV does not receive any return from several of them.

The uncertainty caused by the litigation involving many betting agencies within the racing sector causes HRV to have serious concerns about future revenue streams from wagering.

## New South Wales



Graeme Campbell  
Chairman

**Worldwide economic uncertainty and the rapidly changing wagering environment preordained the 2009/10 financial year as a fiscally challenging one.**

Pari-mutuel TAB betting, the primary source of our revenue, was flat, compounding the enormous task of maintaining prizemoney at 2008/09 levels, which had been artificially inflated by \$1.7 million carried over from the 2007/08 Equine Influenza-interrupted season.

Notwithstanding the pressure on traditional income streams, the New South Wales harness racing industry can look forward to proceeds from the introduction of products such as Trackside and potentially fixed-odds betting in the retail network, in addition to Race Fields Legislation earnings.

Although currently in trust and unable to be utilised pending legal proceedings, HRNSW collected \$7 million in Race Fields fees during FY10.

Once resolved, these funds will not only bridge the ever increasing gap between the Consumer Price Index and a six-year period of steady TAB distribution, but also provide a platform to address across the board prize money increases, breeding incentives and marketing initiatives.

The process for the rezoning and sale of Harold Park continued, however, with a State Election due in NSW early next year, there have been political hurdles.

Carrying a price tag of at least \$150 million, the sale will deliver industry-wide benefits, including \$26 million in recovered funds payable to HRNSW.

On the track it was a history making year.

The Miracle Mile and Inter Dominion Grand Final were conducted at Tabcorp Park, Menangle for the first time with both races, unsurprisingly, producing track record runs.

Monkey King became the first Kiwi to win the Miracle Mile since 2000 in the stunning time of 1:50.8, while the immortal Blacks A Fake stamped his greatness with an unprecedented fourth Inter Dominion title.

Twenty two-year old reinswoman Ashlee Siejka stormed to prominence as the first female to drive more than 100 winners in NSW in a single season.

Remarkably, another young talent, Amanda Turnbull, accomplished the identical milestone just a few weeks later.

The HRNSW Board developed its Strategic Plan for the next three years which includes a restructure of race dates, a more equitable prize money allocation and significantly enhanced handicapping principles.





FY10 also saw the reunification of the commercial and regulatory functions in NSW following the dissolution of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority.

The Carnival Of Cups concept proved successful again and was undoubtedly strengthened by the introduction of bonuses for the leading trainer, driver and horse throughout the series.

In the upcoming season, every country racing venue (both TAB and non-TAB) will conduct a Carnival Of Cups meeting at a time and day which maximises the event as a regional showcase for the harness racing industry.

In summary, there is emergent optimism that the NSW harness racing industry can strengthen and consolidate its position over the next few years.

Evidence of this is the fact that no less than seven new stallions are standing at stud here next season, reinforcing the Breeders Challenge as an evolving and significant brand.



## South Australia



Grant Goodall  
Chairman

**Over the past 12 months, Harness Racing South Australia has largely followed the successful rebuilding strategies adopted in previous years.**

An additional \$2 million (compared with the 2008/09 season) was pumped back into the industry, resulting in a record prize money distribution for our South Australian participants.

Stakes increased by 25 percent and additional funding was also allocated to marketing and racing club venue improvement, equating to a 57 percent increase on the previous year.

Other strategic initiatives were highlighted by the introduction of a new Breeder Incentive Scheme designed to alleviate the State's horse population decline.

A significant increase in two-year-old stake money was well received by industry participants across the board.

TAB clubs also benefited from additional operating fees - up 84 percent on the previous year - and SA's reinsmen and women received a long overdue driving fee increase.

Indeed, the industry as a whole is up-beat and positive, and many believe South Australia's outlook is as bright as it's been in many years, thanks to the impact of Harness Racing SA's improvement strategies and dedication to rebuilding stake money.

From a racing perspective, the 2010 Sky Racing SA Pacing Cup at Globe Derby Park delivered a highlight, with exciting up and coming pacer Mister Zion securing top honours for trainer/driver Geoff Webster and winning owners, the Sanzaro family.

The four-year-old came of age, securing his first Group One success in South Australia's only Barastoc Grand Circuit event.

The 2010 Hygain Country Cups Champion was Longtan Safari, trained by Jon Kingston-Mayne for owner Bruce Williams.

His title came principally due to feature race successes on the Country Cup Circuit at Victor Harbor and Port Pirie.

For the second consecutive season, leading SA driver David Harding topped the double century of wins.

Harding was officially placed fourth on the National Drivers' Premiership behind Daryl Douglas (Victoria), Grant Dixon (Queensland) and Chris Alford (Victoria).

Finally, as South Australia's representative on the Harness Racing Australia Executive, I would like to acknowledge the national leadership of Chairman Geoff Want and CEO Andrew Kelly, and congratulate HRA on its achievements over the past 12 months.

**“Monkey King became the first Kiwi to win the Miracle Mile since 2000”**

## Queensland



### Season 2009/10 will be forever remembered in Queensland harness racing annuals.

It was the year:-

- Our favourite son, Blacks A Fake, achieved a record fourth Inter Dominion Pacing Championship victory;
- The next crop of superstars, headlined by For A Reason and Lanercost, stamped their imprint on the national scene; and
- The administration of our sport stepped into the future.

July 1, 2010 was an historic and important day for the Queensland racing industry - when the three codes (thoroughbred, harness and greyhound) came together under the umbrella of a single controlling body in Racing Queensland Limited.

The amalgamation of Queensland's racing codes will have far-reaching, positive consequences for all stakeholders.

The road to RQL was long but critical to the future of racing in the Sunshine State.

On January 28, 2010 advice was received from the Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading, the Honourable Peter Lawlor MP, that the Government intended to proceed with the amalgamation of the controlling bodies by introducing legislation to amend the Racing Act 2002.

The legislation was hotly debated in Parliament on May 9 but ultimately approved, paving the way for a single racing control body to guide the industry toward a sustainable and healthy financial future.

The decision also paved the way for a Queensland State Government financial contribution of approximately \$80 million over four years, to assist with funding Racing Queensland Limited's asset development plan.

On the track, the year will be remembered for immortal sire Fake Left's son - Blacks A Fake - and his remarkable



fourth Inter Dominion victory in New South Wales.

Since its inaugural running in 1936, no horse had ever won four Inter Dominions.

The champion gelding's March 7 victory followed on from his 2006 success (in Hobart), 2007 (Adelaide) and 2008 (Melbourne).

His lifetime earnings now sit at \$4.1 million, making him the richest ever Australian standardbred racehorse.

Star three-year-olds For A Reason and Lanercost figured prominently on the national feature race circuit.

The former followed up on a magnificent two-year-old season by winning the NSW Derby before completing a clean sweep of his home State features - the Queensland, Gold Coast and Redcliffe Derbies.

Outstanding young trainer/driver Luke McCarthy enjoyed a remarkable season indeed with his QBred star.



The Darrel Graham-trained Lanercost also enjoyed a successful season highlighted by his Australian Derby triumph in Tasmania.

Closer to home, QBred horses continued to enjoy the local racing riches.

Abbey Tiara's fairytale continued when she took out the QBred Breeders' Classic and QBred Triad double for three-year-old fillies while Forever Gold secured the same double in the two-year-old fillies' division.

Other QBred Triad winners included General Bronski (two-year-old colts and geldings); Bay Of Eagles (three-year-old colts and geldings); Hez Hellbound (four-year-old entires and geldings) and Forever After (four-year-old mares).

Queensland's 2009/10 season wrapped up minus one familiar voice.

After 18 years behind the microphone at Queensland's Albion Park harness headquarters, David Fowler stepped



across to take up the State's number one thoroughbred broadcasting role.

Fowler called his final harness meeting at Albion Park on July 30, 2010 joined by many of his interstate colleagues and friends including Dan Mielicki, Fred Hastings, Kevin Thompson, Jimmy Jacques and Richard Bell.

Fowler's move opened the door for long-time friend and understudy Chris Barsby to take up the lead harness position.

We thank David for his services behind the microphone.

It has been a whirlwind year in Queensland and there appears certain to be even more exciting times on the horizon.

The Pinjarra Harness Racing Club conducted its first "Super Nines Day" on March 1, comprising nine races with nine starters in each and all over one mile.

All drivers wore colours associated with their barrier and the product was aimed at newcomers to harness racing.

Work has commenced on the new \$1.75 million public and members facilities at Pinjarra and the project is scheduled for completion in March 2011.

On the racetrack, the 2009/10 WA season was highlighted by the driving achievements of Chris Lewis and Colin Brown and wins by Washakie in the WA Pacing Cup and Im Themightyquinn in the Fremantle Cup.

Chris Lewis became the first Western Australian to pass the 4000 career wins milestone and just the third Australian reinsman to achieve this feat, joining Victorians Gavin Lang and Chris Alford.

Lewis also passed the 2000 Perth wins milestone in 2010, re-writing the local history books in the process.

Colin Brown became only the fourth Western Australian driver to pass the 2000 career wins milestone joining Chris Lewis, Fred R. Kersley and Trevor Warwick.

He also joined the same trio as the only drivers to have passed the 1000 Perth wins milestone.

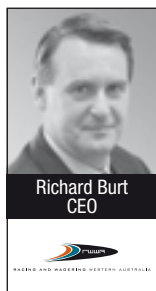
Washakie, owned by well-known Fremantle Harness Racing Club members Kevin Jeavons, Gino Monaco and Lindsay Severn, returned to Western Australia with his Queensland trainer/driver John McCarthy to win the 2010 WA Pacing Cup in track record 1:56.3 mile rate over 2536 metres, beating Im Themightyquinn and Our Malabar.

Im Themightyquinn, driven by Gary Hall Jnr, took out the standing start Fremantle Cup, overcoming a 10 metre handicap to score from his stablemates Alzona and Dartmoor.

Gary Hall subsequently became the first trainer to trifecta a Grand Circuit race in Australia.



## Western Australia



**The 2009/10 season saw Racing and Wagering Western Australia provide harness clubs with stakes and Owner Incentive Payments totalling \$22 million, and \$951,000 in Westbred Bonus payments.**

During the season harness club's conducted 293 meetings and 2413 races which provided 24,460 racing opportunities for 2194 individual horses.

WA TAB wagering on WA harness product was \$71.5 million, five percent lower than 2008/09.

SKY Channel coverage of WA harness improved with the introduction of SKY2 in March 2010 – in total, 78 percent of all WA meetings were covered by SKY.



**"Lewis also passed the 2000 Perth wins milestone in 2010"**

The third of Western Australia's three Grand Circuit races saw Has The Answers, driven by Chris Lewis for trainer Tony Svilicich, cruise to victory from the Gary Hall duo of Im Themightyquinn and Alzona.

Has The Answers proved to be the iron horse of WA harness racing in season 2009/10, starting 45 times for 23 wins, 13 placings and stake earnings of \$431,387.

Oakford trainer Ross Olivieri won his fourth WA Derby when former Victorian Crombie finished all over the leaders to down favourite David Hercules and Why Live Dangerously.

The win gave leading young driver Morgan Woodley his first success in the Group One classic.

David Hercules may have been beaten in the WA Derby but he did win the Western Gateway a week earlier with Colin Brown at the reins, cruising home 12 metres clear of Indomitable Saab and Crombie in the Group Two classic.

David Hercules was then taken to Victoria by trainer Dave Thompson and downed that State's premier three-year-olds in the Group One Vicbred Super Series Final with Gavin Lang in the sulky.

Greg Bond won both the Group One WA Oaks and Queensland Oaks with Millwood Meg and the stable went close to winning the Group One Chariots Of Fire in NSW when Ima Rocket Star finished second in a time of 1:52.3.

The four-year-old classics were dominated by the Victorian-owned and WA-trained and driven Bonavista Bay who won the Group One Golden Nugget Championship and Group One McInerney Ford Classic at Gloucester Park before a homestate triumph in the Group One Vicbred Super Series Final for trainer Mike Reed and driver Mark Reed.

While he was trained in Victoria by Chris Lang, the WA-owned Sundons Gift won three Group One trotting races during the season in the Inter Dominion Grand Final, Australian Trotting Grand Prix and Rowe Cup in New Zealand for Neven Botica.



## Tasmania



Gary Lottering  
CEO



**The quality of the State's standardbred breeding industry and the local appearance of some of the nation's top horses were two highlights of another year of growth and development for Tasmanian harness racing.**

Significant occurrences included:-

- Several positive outcomes for Tasmanian breeding;
- The appearance of Bettors Strike, Lanercost and Mendelico in Tasmanian feature races;
- The continued success of young drivers in Tasmania; and
- Initiatives to prolong the racing life of horses.

Breeding-related successes were numerous and notable.



Tasmanian horses continued a recent trend, producing top class efforts in a number of Australia's best races.

Villagem won the \$200,000 Group One Chariots of Fire at Menangle (NSW) and the \$100,000 Group One Australasian Breeders Crown Final at Melton (Victoria).

Shez Ryleymak was second in the \$100,000 Group One Vicbred Super Series Final for four-year-old mares and Cullens Angel won consecutive metropolitan class races, also at Melton.

Locally, Gedlee demonstrated his class with two strong performances resulting in second placings in the Tasmanian and Australian Derbies.

The fifth Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale was conducted in January 2010 and achieved another increase in the sale average - \$8932 compared to \$8650 in the previous year.

Pleasingly, interstate buyers again supported the sale and there is now compelling evidence that the recent Tasmanian Breeding Incentives are impacting positively.

Since early 2006:-

- The Tasbred Bonus has doubled to an annual budget of \$264,000;
- Foal notification fees and Tasbred Series payments have been abolished saving breeders \$54,000;
- \$40,800 has been added to stake money for Tasbred heats and finals, equating to \$276,000 annually; and
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments have increased significantly to in excess of \$100,000 annually.

A key indicator of the local breeding industry's buoyancy is a steady growth in the number of foal registrations in the past three years - 217 (in 2007), 226 (2008) and 243 (2009).

Another notable fact was an increase in the number of Tasbreds racing last season – higher than 50 percent of race fields compared with 45 percent in recent years.



And future broodmares were given every opportunity to achieve race track success through increased opportunities for fillies and mares.

The aim was two-fold.

Tasracing programmed races across varying classes for mares and fillies specifically to encourage owners to persevere with their female stock and therefore ensure a positive outcome for race numbers and field sizes.

The second benefit delivered greater opportunity for owners to assess the merit of breeding after racing, based on the race track performance of their mares.

The fourth V75 Tasmanian Harness Racing Carnival in December and the March/April feature meetings (highlighted by the Tasmanian and Australian Derbies) attracted the best array of talent seen in Tasmania since the 2006 Inter Dominion.

New Zealand visitor Bettors Strike, winner of the \$125,000 Tasmania Cup, was a prominent Grand Circuit performer.

Classy Victorian four-year-old Mendelico won both December mares' features and star Queensland three-year-old Lanercost won both Derbies.

Interstate trainers and owners also established a new record during the latest V75 Carnival, with 56 starters from the mainland and New Zealand compared to 52 in 2008 and 37 in 2007.

As a result of the unprecedented support from outside the State, a per-race average turnover increase of 7.93 percent compared to 2008 was recorded.

Young Tasmanian drivers continued to demonstrate their skills locally and nationally.

Gareth Rattray, who won his fifth consecutive Tasmanian Premiership, was one of five drivers aged 25 and under to finish in the top 10.

Nathan Ford (aged 23) was second, while Erin Hollaway (25), Mark Yole (22) and Todd Rattray (20) all performed exceptionally well.

Rattray capped an exceptional year by also securing his second Australasian Young Drivers' Championship.

Further programming initiatives, including a "bottom-up points" field selection criteria - were adopted in an endeavour to attract and retain the critical mass of racing stock required to produce good field sizes and competitive racing.

The stakes budget and feature race funding were reviewed at the start of the season, resulting in a significant increase in base level stakes for Sky Channel meetings in 2009/10.

The desired outcome of a wider distribution of stake money to average and lower class horses was achieved.

At the same time, the quality of feature races was not affected.

The State Premiership winners were:-

- Leading Driver – Gareth Rattray.
- Leading Trainer – Phillip Ford.
- Leading Junior Driver – Nathan Ford.
- Leading Female Driver – Erin Hollaway.
- Leading Female Trainer – Brooke Hammond.

Track supervisors and staff attended a HRV Track Maintenance Seminar in November 2009 and the impact on Tasmanian harness racing has been positive with no races or race meetings cancelled or postponed due to track conditions.

Furthermore, there appears to be a gradual improvement in sectional and overall times at the three major venues – Hobart, Launceston and Devonport.

**“Another notable fact was an increase in the number of Tasbreds racing last season”**

# International Focus

Australia's blossoming reputation as an international harness racing force was further enhanced in the 12 months to August 31 this year. An influx of elite overseas blood plus off-shore interest in the Australian product elevated the industry's profile to an unprecedented level.

**At the nation's premier annual standardbred yearling auction – the Australian Pacing Gold Melbourne Sale – champion New Zealand horseman Mark Purdon was the leading buyer.**

Purchasing at the sale for the first time, Purdon outlayed \$238,000 for six lots, a show of support which spoke volumes for the quality of the young stock on offer.

Australian buyers were also very active on the international sale stage, securing horses with the potential to add an exciting new dimension to the local racing and breeding scene.

At the famed Harrisburg sale in Pennsylvania (USA), prominent Victorian identities Duncan McPherson and Chris Lang purchased a superbly bred Andover Hall filly out of the seven-time race winning Muscles Yankee mare Miss Wisconsin.

All being well, she will race in Australia as Aldebaran Hall, however, given her world class pedigree, her greatest influence on the Australian industry is likely to be at stud.

She joins a US-bred Chocolatier colt to be trained in Victoria, and a filly by the same boom sire who will race in North America before being imported for breeding purposes.

All three were purchased under the banner of McPherson and Lang's Aldebaran Park racing and stud operation.

"We're just doing our part to improve the standardbred breed in Australia," the pair said in the aftermath of their spending spree.

Chris Lang was also a key player in a rare local buying venture to Sweden which resulted in the acquisition of a yearling trotting filly with regal European blood flowing through her veins.

A syndicate comprising Australian harness, greyhound and thoroughbred identities pooled their resources to secure the daughter of former world champion square-gaiter Varenne who is widely considered the greatest trotter of all-time and won 62 of 73 starts and US\$5.9 million in stakes.

Curiously, the filly was actually foaled in North America before being imported to Sweden at six months of age.



Janice Bryant was the driving force behind the syndicate and is well on the way to fulfilling her dream to buy and race a European trotter “down under”.

“It’s something I had been thinking about for some time,” she said.

“I canvassed quite a few people for support and I was amazed by the interest I received,” she added.

“The stud which bred the filly owns two farms – one in Sweden and one in North America – so it’s fair to say she already had a very cosmopolitan flavour about her before being purchased by an Australian syndicate.”

The exciting international yearling developments follow hot on the heels of an inspired buying venture by prominent Queensland harness racing identity Kevin Seymour who, in partnership with Peter O’Shea and Clinton Payne, imported champion North American pacer Mr Feelgood in 2008.

The former Little Brown Jug winner made an astonishing transition to Australian racing, winning the 2009 Inter Dominion Pacing Championship and was named 2009 Australian Harness Horse of the Year.

His dominance continued in the 2009/10 season under the guidance of new trainer/driver Luke McCarthy, notching a quartet of consecutive wins culminating with victory in the \$60,000 Group Two Sunshine Sprint in a 1:54.3 mile rate.

There is now great anticipation surrounding Mr Feelgood’s pending Australian stud career, given he has already proven a successful sire in North America.

However, connections have indicated it will be at least another 12 months before the amazing pacer is retired from racing and the newest chapter in his unique career – which has already reaped 27 wins, feature race success on two continents and \$2.3 million in stake earnings - begins.

**“We’re just doing our part to improve the standardbred breed in Australia”**



# The Year Ahead

At harness racing's highest level, the financial rewards for outstanding achievement are far more lucrative than many people realise.

**The standardbred industry not only injects hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Australian economy annually, it offers multi-million dollar returns to owners through stake money and incentive payments.**

Four-time Inter Dominion champion Blacks A Fake's career earnings topped \$4.17 million at the conclusion of the 2009/10 racing year while outstanding square-gaiter Sundons Gift's 34th career win saw him break through the \$1 million barrier in August this year

Then there was champion Victorian two-year-old Royal Verdict, a mere \$8500 yearling purchase who finished his first season of racing with a \$437,000 bank roll.

In 2010/11, harness racing's premier open age pacing and trotting events – a collective of 25 individual races marketed under the banner of the Barastoc Grand Circuit – will distribute almost \$7 million in prize money across Australasia.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Factor in key age races such as the Australasian Breeders Crown, Australian Pacing Gold, the Queensland Triad and Seymour Series, New South Wales Breeders Challenge and Vicbred Super Series, plus the time-honoured Derbies and Oaks in each State, and the riches rapidly grow.

Each year, Harness Racing Australia dedicates enormous time and effort, collaborating with State controlling bodies and clubs to develop the nation's all-important feature calendar.

The latest version has been prepared balancing tradition, racing, commercial and local factors but with the primary aim always of maximising participation by the stars of the track – the horses.

### **The 2010/11 Barastoc Grand Circuit – Pacers' Series**

October 30, 2010:	\$200,000 Garrard's Queensland Pacing Championship at Albion Park (QLD)
November 9, 2010:	\$1,000,000 Christchurch Casino NZ Cup at Addington (NZ)
November 12, 2010:	\$250,000 Woodlands NZ Pacing Free For All at Addington (NZ)
November 27, 2010:	\$500,000 SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile at Tabcorp Park (NSW)
December 4, 2010:	\$100,000 M H Treuer Memorial at Bankstown (NSW)
December 18, 2010:	\$425,000 SEW - Eurodrive Victoria Cup (Open M0+) at Tabcorp Park (VIC)
December 26, 2010:	\$100,000 Wrest Point Tasmanian Pacing Cup (DH) at Hobart (TAS)
January 8, 2011:	\$100,000 Sky Racing SA Pacing Cup at Globe Derby (SA)
January 14, 2011:	\$250,000 Stallion Station Fremantle Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park (WA)
January 21, 2011:	\$400,000 Find 30 WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park (WA)
January 29, 2011:	\$125,000 PETstock Ballarat Pacing Cup (Open M0+) at Ballarat (VIC)
February 5, 2011:	\$425,000 BIG6 Hunter Cup (Open M0+) (DH) at Tabcorp Park (VIC)
February 11, 2011:	\$125,000 Find 30 Australian Pacing Championship at Gloucester Park (WA)
February 11, 2011:	\$500,000 Trillian Trust Auckland Cup at Alexandra Park (NZ)
April, 2011:	\$1,000,000 Christchurch Casino Inter Dominion Pacing Championship at Christchurch (NZ)

### **The 2010/11 Barastoc Grand Circuit – Trotters' Series**

November 9, 2010:	\$80,000 Seelite Windows & Doors NZ Trotting FFA at Addington (NZ)
November 11, 2010:	\$250,000 Hellers Dominion at Addington (NZ)
November 27, 2010:	\$50,000 Rock & Earth Exchange NSW Trotters Mile at Tabcorp Park (NSW)
December 11, 2010:	\$60,000 Aldebaran Park Bill Collins Trotters Mile (Open TM0+) at Cranbourne (VIC)
December 18, 2010:	\$125,000 SEW-Eurodrive Australian Trotting Grand Prix (Open TM0+) at Tabcorp Park (VIC)
December 31, 2010:	\$80,000 Seelite Windows & Doors National Trot at Alexandra Park (NZ)
February 5, 2011:	\$150,000 Australasian Trotting Championship Final (Open TM0+) (DH) at Tabcorp Park (VIC)
February 18, 2011:	\$50,000 V L Dullard Trotters Cup (Open TM0+) at Tabcorp Park (VIC)
April, 2011:	\$300,000 Dream With Me Stables Inter Dominion Trotting Championship at Christchurch (NZ)
April 23, 2011:	\$80,000 Garry Thompson/Fred Shaw NZ Trotting Championship at Addington (NZ)
May 6, 2011:	\$250,000 Rowe Cup at Alexandra Park (NZ)

**“Harness Racing Australia dedicates enormous time and effort... to develop the nation's all-important feature calendar”**

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