



**LIRA**  
HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
2011/2012



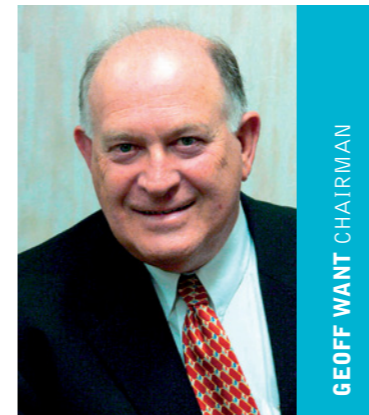
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THERE WERE PLENTY OF CHEERS, AND A FEW TEARS, WHEN DARREN BILLINGER DROVE 'FRANK' TO A POPULAR WIN IN THE FINAL OF THE VICBRED SUPER SERIES AT TABCORP PARK MELTON IN MAY ■



GEOFF WANT CHAIRMAN

The past year has been a decidedly positive one for Australian harness racing, with some outstanding victories both on and off the track, although there are still concerns about several issues which threaten the well-being of our industry.

Of all the highlights on the track during the past season, none was better than the hometown victory of Im Themightyquinn in the V75 Inter Dominion Final hosted at Gloucester Park, Perth in front of a packed, enthusiastic and parochial home crowd.

It was the second win in the Inter Dominion for the brilliant pacer, after receiving the 2011 trophy in the wake of the disqualification of Smoken Up from the final run in Auckland. It was fitting that the connections of Im Themightyquinn were able to enjoy the moment in front of the home fans.

The stunning run of Im Themightyquinn in Perth headlined a number of outstanding individual performances during the season, including an amazing run of 18 straight wins by Sushi Sushi and Smoken Up claiming a fourth consecutive Len Smith Mile at Tabcorp Park Menangle.

The Inter Dominion again proved disappointing for the connections of Smoken Up, but the mighty pacer was crowned Australasian Grand Circuit champion after winning four legs of the elite series.

The formidable New Zealand trotter I Can Doosit was a clear victor of the trotting division of the Grand Circuit after winning five legs, including his second Inter Dominion trotting championship.

The imported stallion Mr Feelgood, which had the unique distinction of having won the prestigious Little Brown Jug in the United States before embarking on a successful racetrack career in Australia, including the 2009 Inter Dominion final, was retired to stud after winning seven of his 18 starts during the season. During his distinguished career Mr Feelgood started 114 times for 39 wins and 33 placings and earnings of almost \$3.4 million.

#### Outstanding achievements

For many harness racing followers however, the real "feel good" story of the year was Come On Frank. A prolific winner at Globe Derby Park and other South Australian tracks, Come On Frank gained a national following as word spread that he was providing a wonderful tonic for the Billinger family, who lost their eldest daughter Kelly in a car accident in 2011.

There were plenty of cheers, and a few tears, when Darren Billinger drove 'Frank' to a popular win in the final of the Vicbred Super Series at Tabcorp Park Melton in May. Come On Frank finished the season with nine wins and four placings from 17 starts and almost \$100,000 in prizemoney.



Jodie, Julie and Darren Billinger with 'Frank'

Globe Derby Park was also the setting for another uplifting story in May when Danielle Hill returned to driving almost two years to the day since she suffered dreadful injuries in a horrific fall at the Adelaide track. It was feared that Dani, the 2009 Australasian Young Drivers Champion, would never drive again but she has made a remarkable comeback.

Ace Queensland trainer Bill Dixon retired after winning four successive national championships and preparing more than 3,000 winners. He handed control of the stable to his son, Grant, who continued the family tradition by taking out the national trainers' premiership with 265 winners in the season.

Grant was also Queensland's leading driver with 208 victories. Everyone in harness racing wishes Grant Dixon well as he continues his battle with cancer. Hopefully, he will soon be back training and driving winners.

Veteran Victorian reinsman Gavin Lang passed a significant milestone in August when he drove his 5,000th winner at a meeting in Warragul. He drove his first winner in 1975 and is the first reinsman in Australasia to pass the magical 5,000 mark.

While "The Ice Man" was showing his silken skills have not been dimmed by advancing years, it was heartening to witness the continued emergence of some outstanding young driving talent throughout Australia. Our industry is blessed with some wonderful young people who must be encouraged to reach their full potential; they are the future!

#### Industry funding

Off the track, the undoubted highlight of the year was the landmark ruling handed down by the High Court in March, upholding the validity of the New South Wales race fields legislation. The resolve of Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) and their thoroughbred counterparts, Racing NSW, must have been sorely tested as Sportsbet and Betfair pursued their challenges through several courts.

The unanimous High Court ruling endorsed the right of HRNSW to charge a fee of 1.5% of turnover to anyone seeking to profit from their product.



Sportsbet also challenged, in the Federal Court, the right of Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) to charge a fee based on turnover. In late August the Judge ruled that the Victorian race fields legislation was valid but the 1.5% fee imposed on Sportsbet was not permissible. This was due to a subsidy paid by HRV to on course bookmakers.

As this report was being prepared it was not clear if HRV would appeal.

Most importantly however, the validity of the race fields legislation in both New South Wales and Victoria has been upheld by the courts and HRNSW and HRV are to be applauded for their tenacity and perseverance in defending the rights of the industry to charge a fee for its product.

### Legislative Reform

While the court decisions are critical in the fight for funding justice, it is important that federal legislation, or at least mirrored legislation in each state, is implemented to give the industry effective control over its product and who can use it. This is an important point which underpins the funding of racing and too important to be lost among the self-interest of state or local issues.

Indeed, a key recommendation of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into gambling was a racing industry funding model underpinned by national legislation.

The High Court decision will no doubt lead to a number of wagering operators reviewing their business models and considering their options. If history is any guide, despite the claims of a number of operators who contend they care about racing, some may shift off-shore to avoid paying their fair share.

There have been several reports indicating the corporate bookmakers have threatened to withdraw race sponsorships and move offshore. This ignores the fact the sponsorships were a marketing tool designed to build their business – they had nothing to do with “doing a favour” for race clubs.

The operators also seem to be ignoring the fundamental matter at the heart of this debate – they are now required to pay for the right to operate on our product. We have been advocating for years that racing should be treated the same as all producers in any field of endeavour, with the right to charge for our product.

Progress has been made with the Race Fields Legislation, reinforced by the High Court and Federal Court decisions, and we must not be influenced by threats or bullying into lessening our resolve.

Racing operates in a global wagering community and administrators and regulators need to stay alert to all possible moves to circumvent Australian law and to effectively counter any such attempts.

As advocated by HRA at the last two conferences of Australian racing ministers and to the Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform last year, steps must be taken to strengthen the Interactive Gambling Act (2001) to prevent exploitation by wagering operators who are not approved by Australian regulators

HRA will also continue to lobby federal and state members of parliament for national legislation to govern the

funding of the racing industry. This could be achieved without the states giving up control over regulatory functions, state taxation regimes or commercial matters.

### Wagering Returns

Wagering is the lifeblood of our industry and the revenue from the state pari mutuel operators is the primary source of financing. In the past year total wagering turnover on the TABs remained constant at just under \$2 billion, with another \$600 million placed with corporate operators.

Despite this, harness racing revenue nationally from TAB distribution dropped \$4.5 million to \$126.3 million. There were mixed results up and down among the states but the national fall of almost 3% was due to the growth of fixed odds betting.

Punting behaviour has been transformed with the advent of fixed odds betting by the TABs and its popularity has seen dramatic growth. The downside however is that the industry does not receive the same return from fixed odds as from parimutuel wagering, thus the differential in distribution.

### Infrastructure Developments

The NSWHR has received considerable praise for its new facility at Tabcorp Park Menangle but it is not resting on its laurels. The club is investing heavily in infrastructure, with a \$25 million project under way to improve facilities for participants and patrons.

HRV is continuing to develop Tabcorp Park Melton and has exciting plans for the future of the precinct, while new training facilities have been opened at Cranbourne and Charlton.

The plans for redevelopment of Globe Derby Park have been progressed and there are a number of other development initiatives around the nation.

In Queensland, the change of government at this year's state election appears to have ended concerns about the future of Albion Park – and the future of the industry in the “Sunshine State”.

All these exciting development plans are a positive sign for our industry.

### Integrity

Public confidence is an imperative in an industry that depends so heavily on wagering and I am confident harness racing has an outstanding integrity regime which is geared to ensure this confidence is not undermined.

It could be argued that the disgraceful matter in New South Wales which has attracted so much adverse publicity in the past year has undermined the industry's integrity regime. I prefer to believe the fact that the people allegedly involved in this matter – where certain stables received advance warning about planned tests for prohibited substances – have been charged, vindicates the effectiveness of our integrity model.

There is no doubt this matter has given harness racing unwanted publicity and it is frustrating that it has taken so long to be resolved, but the wheels of justice often turn slowly. HRNSW has, quite rightly, taken an uncompromising approach to this matter and it is to be hoped it will soon be finalised so we can all get on with the task of promoting the positive aspects of our industry.

Public confidence includes the industry confidence of all participants, administrators and connections of horses who expect to compete on a level playing field – including consistency in upholding the rules and issuing penalties when breaches occur.

It is for this reason that, at the Australasian Racing Ministers' Conference in Hobart in May, HRA highlighted concerns brought about as a result of varying approaches to the disciplinary structures applied to racing by each State.

While the various structures, including appeal systems, across States are understood and well intended, a clear contrast has emerged between the approach and performance of civil tribunals when compared with racing tribunals.

Civil based disciplinary tribunals were designed as cost effective one stop shops for dealing with a range of disputes, and do not have the specialised knowledge deemed appropriate for hearing racing appeals. Our industry has often become trapped in costly legal procedures and experienced frustrating delays in finalising cases because of appeals, some of which appear to be manipulated for convenience.

The time taken for some high profile appeals makes a mockery of the system and undermines confidence in the racing industry. Racing is a global, 24-hour, 7-day a week industry which requires a disciplinary structure capable of operating efficiently and expeditiously.

HRA urged ministers to review the current disciplinary structures in this context, with the objective of establishing a uniform approach and consistency of powers which best serve the industry, without undermining procedural fairness or diluting the rights of individuals.

### International Racing Information and Intelligence Service

The harness racing industry commitment to integrity can also be seen in the continued development of the International Racing Information and Intelligence Service (IRIIS).

HRA have formally joined with a number of international jurisdictions, including the USA, Canada, United Kingdom and France, to develop a resource by which jurisdictions can communicate and share intelligence information around the globe at anytime.

This sharing of information, intelligence, best practice and resources is designed to encourage consistency in regulation of horse racing and promote development of the sport globally, promote high standards of integrity, protect and enhance the broader public interest, protect the health and safety of the horse and protect the economic value of, and public interest in, racing.

HRA is also a founding member of the National Racing Integrity Advisory Group, established at the Racing Ministers' Conference in Hobart. It is hoped this group will provide a forum for the exchange of information and intelligence to assist with the best approaches to racing integrity being delivered consistently across the three codes of racing and all State and Territory jurisdictions.

### Breeding

The work of the Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel attracted considerable interest and the two reports produced in late 2011 have sparked a great deal of debate.

Some of the recommendations have been adopted, but the major matters are still being considered by industry groups. There is no doubt aspects of the reports will remain in a development phase for some time to come.





The panel was 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. There are already indications it has had a positive impact.

States are actively programming more mares and fillies only races, all HRA breeding data is now available free of charge and new reports have been designed, and many studs have reviewed commercial terms with breeders including the recent introduction of the "pay on live foal" option.

#### Animal Welfare

HRA continues to take large strides with the formal adoption of a national approach to the re-training and re-housing of pacers and trotters, known as Standardbreds Unharnessed.

A large number of ex-racehorses are now finding new lives post-racing in a variety of roles including show jumping, trail riding, police work and adult riding activities.

Equestrian Australia have identified Standardbreds as a terrific transitional horse for youngsters graduating from pony club to more serious equine pursuits, while HRA has also forged a formal link with Riding for the Disabled (RDA), supplying fit, healthy and well trained horses for RDA programs.

HRA also welcomed the news mid-year from the Standing Council on Primary Industries promoting further discussion on a number of elements of the Australian Council of Governments' reform for a single national regulatory framework for agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines.

HRA fully supports harmonised governance of the framework for veterinary prescribing and compounding rights, having highlighted a number of examples where unregistered products have been prescribed by veterinarians resulting in unsuspecting trainers being caught (quite rightly) under HRA's prohibited substance rules.

Veterinarians provide a great service to the racing industry, but they must be held accountable for their decisions, something current Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority regulations and State legislation does not provide.

#### Product Innovation

HRA has been embarking on a number of product innovations and enhancements in an effort to improve the presentation of harness racing.

Of most interest is Hot Shots, a one lap, 8-across the front mobile start sprint which will involve new camera angles, interaction with drivers via audio equipment, different styles of race call and coloured identification of horses.

Unfortunately due to existing work programs at Sky Racing and the necessary re design of graphics packages, the launch date will not be until May 2013.

HRNSW trialled the concept mid-year with The Flying K series, which received a mixed reaction from trainers and drivers but seemed popular with viewers and punters. The trial provided considerable information to be used in considering the final make-up of Hot Shots.

Industry participants are urged to embrace the concept. Harness racing has a diminishing market share in the broad leisure and entertainment sector and we have to be more innovative to improve the appeal of our product.

HRV is to be applauded for its decision to launch a new trotting race called The Great Southern Star, to be run at Tabcorp Park Melton in March 2013.

Modelled on the acclaimed Elitloppet in Sweden, The Great Southern Star will feature the best trotters in Australasia in two heats each worth \$50,000 and a \$250,000 final, all run on the same program. It is an exciting concept and hopefully will attract the attention it deserves.

#### Inter Dominion

As mentioned earlier, an exciting and successful 2012 Inter Dominion was conducted in Perth, with local hero and 2011 Champion Im Themightyquinn securing back-to-back victories and ensuring his rightful place in the Inter Dominion Hall of Fame.

As Perth rightly lays claim to the birthplace of the Inter Dominion, a return to the traditional three Heats and Final series was a fitting and nostalgic finale to the traditional roster system which, until this year, had been used to determine host club arrangements.



A new chapter for the Inter Dominion now awaits, with Sydney having been awarded the hosting rights for the three years of 2013 – 2015 via a successful tender submission, strongly supported by the State government agency Destination NSW.

In a bold move designed to generate interest and publicity across Australasia, heats will be conducted in five different locations, sequentially on the same night and two weeks in advance of the Grand Final which is set for Sunday afternoon, 3 March 2013. Final day will feature seven Group One races on a ten-event program, with more than \$2 million in prizemoney on offer.

This will be a very different and exciting format, which will plot a new path and breathe new life into the series, restoring it to its rightful position as the flagship event of the industry.

#### Broadcast Rights

There are a number of other projects being undertaken by HRA which will have an important bearing on our industry, such as the Size and Scope Study to determine the economic impact of harness racing on a national, state and regional basis.

Another is an attempt to negotiate improved broadcast rights arrangements with Sky Racing. All HRA members, except those in Queensland, signed Deeds of Agency in June/July appointing HRA as their agent to discuss a range of concerns with Sky Racing.

Whilst not wishing to damage the generally harmonious relationship with Sky, members believed there were aspects of the existing broadcast rights agreements which were not in their best present or future interests. These included the scope and effect of the agreements, rights fees, race scheduling and methods of broadcast.

HRA lodged a Notification of Collective Bargaining with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and informed Sky of its intentions, prompting a surprisingly defensive reaction.

These are critical issues for HRA members, especially the scope of rights as they relate to new and emerging media, and it is disappointing that Sky and Tabcorp have taken such a defensive approach. Nonetheless, it is to be hoped all hurdles can be cleared in the near future and we can have meaningful and productive negotiations to attempt to resolve these important matters.

#### Acknowledgements

Harness Racing Australia enjoys an excellent relationship with Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) and the two organisations co-operate on many issues. In recent years it has been my great pleasure to deal with HRNZ chairman Pat O'Brien, whom I have admired for his vast knowledge of harness racing, his passion for the industry, his work ethic and his abundant commonsense.

Pat announced at the HRNZ annual conference in July that he was standing down as chairman, although he will continue to serve out his final year on the board. He was given a standing ovation and I am sure everyone in Australia who has met Pat will join me in wishing him well in his future endeavours.



Gary Allen has been elected as the new chairman and I have no doubt he will prove a most capable replacement for Pat O'Brien. Our thanks also go to HRNZ Chief Executive Edward Rennell for his co-operation with HRA on many issues.

I must acknowledge the members of the HRA Executive for their support throughout the year and the thorough and professional manner in which they have managed with many issues. A special thank you to Graham Taylor for his brief stint on the Executive and welcome to Mark Carey as the new South Australian representative.

All members of the HRA committees, which make such a fine contribution, are deserving of praise along with our hard working legal counsel, Dean Cooper.

Most importantly, special thanks to our excellent Chief Executive, Andrew Kelly, and his outstanding team in the Melbourne Head Office. We are fortunate to have such professional and capable staff.

There are many issues affecting the Australian Harness Racing industry, but they are not insurmountable objects. There are challenges, but also opportunities – we must work together to ensure we meet the challenges and profit from the opportunities.

**Geoff Want**  
Chairman





# CEO'S REPORT

WITH INCREASING PUBLIC AND ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATION SCRUTINY OF RACING ACTIVITIES, HRA HAS CONTINUED TO ESTABLISH STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND BUILD ON A NUMBER OF KEY INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO MONITOR AND STRENGTHEN THE INDUSTRY'S WELFARE REPUTATION ■



2011/12 was again full of racing highlights, but there were none better than Im Themightquinn's hometown Inter Dominion victory at Gloucester Park in March 2012. In a great result for all of his connections, for whom the satisfaction of victory was understandably sweet, the parochial crowd found great voice with a seemingly endless and memorable chorus of Bob Dylan's 1967 classic, 'Mighty Quinn'.

In a stellar year for Im Themightquinn, he also secured Inter Dominion Hall of Fame status by virtue of his second Inter Dominion Championship win (after claiming the 2011 title following the disqualification of Smoken Up) and secured a well deserved back-to-back Australian Harness Horse of the Year title.

While tributes to the deeds of other recent Champions, both human and equine, appear elsewhere in this publication, I did wish to honor the memory of two great horses who passed on during the year – Village Kid and Knight Pistol. Much has been written about these two true Champions over time and I cannot do justice here, but fortunately, and by any measure, the following statistical overview speaks for itself:

## **Knight Pistol**

Foaled in Australia on 30 October 1987

Breeder: Israel & Ruth Winig

Owners: Russell & Robyn Edwards

Lifetime Stats:

181 Starts, 55 Wins, 27 2nds, 12 3rds, \$612,203  
TR1:56.4MS Raced in Aust, NZ and Europe (NZ 13-1-3-2 \$38,875 & EUROPE 14-1-1-1 \$131,164). Last raced as a 12YO (Dec 1999).

Inter Dominions:

1997 (3rd), 1998 (3rd), 1999 (12th) and won 1 qualifying heat.

Awards:

1997 and 1999 Vanclve Award for Trotters (AHRC)

Note: Trotters Grand Circuit started in 1999/2000 - after Knight Pistol retired.

Major races won:

1997 Australasian Trotting Championship Final (Moonee Valley)

1999 Cochran Trotters Cup (Bendigo)

1994 Bendigo Trotters Cup

1998 Freestone Trotters Cup

1997, 1998, 1999 Jack Roberts Trot (SA).

Records (Australasian trotting records overall - race times only):

One mile - Bendigo 1997 (K Manning) 1:56.4MS

1700m Australian record: Harold Park 1997 (K Manning) 2:01.3MS

3200m TR Record for Standing Starts:

3280m 2:04.4SS 22/08/1998 at Moonee Valley (unbroken). 2:04.4SS 22/08/1998 at Moonee Valley (unbroken).



Knight Pistol, pictured scoring one of his many victories at Moonee Valley with Kerryn Manning in the sulky



## Village Kid

Foaled in New Zealand on 4 December 1980

Owners: Norma & Bill Horn, Cecilia Cox,  
Estate of Gordon Cox

Breeder: IM Behrns Ltd, NZ

Lifetime Stats:

160 Starts, 93 Wins, 25 2nds, 12 3rds,  
\$2,117,870 1:55.1TT Raced in Aust and NZ  
(NZ-9-3-1-0 \$7,194) Last raced as a 13YO (Sept  
1993) and had 19 consecutive wins (20/02/1987  
to 13/02/1988).

Inter Dominions:

1985 (2nd), 1986 (1st), 1988 (8th), 1989 (4th)  
and won 8 qualifying heats.

Awards:

1986, 1988 - Australasian Grand Circuit  
Champion (Won 9 Grand Circuit Races)  
1986, 1988 - Australian Harness Horse of the Year  
1986, 1988, and 1989 - Lawn Derby Award for  
Pacers (AHRC)

Major Races won:

1986 AG Hunter Cup  
1987 Australian Pacing Championship  
1988 and 1989 Fremantle Pacing Cup  
1986 and 1987 Miracle Mile  
1987 Treuer Memorial  
1985, 1986, 1988 and 1989 WA Pacing Cup

Records:

Australian records for geldings -  
One mile - 1:55.5 (Brisbane 85/85)  
1700m (1985) Gloucester Park (AC Lewis) 1:57.3  
1700m (1989) Gloucester Park (AC Lewis) 1:55.2  
2300m (85/86) Moonee Valley (AC Lewis) 1:59.1  
WA records for geldings -  
One mile - 1:57.2 (Fremantle 1990)

One mile - 1:55.1TT (Gloucester Park 1993)

The retention of tradition and historic race vision led Harness Racing Australia (HRA) and film producer/harness racing fan, Mike Dickinson, to collaborate on an archival project during the year which has converted and catalogued over 1500 major races and interviews dating back to 1911 in digital format for the industry to share. Such a project protects our heritage and provides opportunities to expose and showcase the sports rich history through current mediums like YouTube and Twitter.

Such was the case with Village Kid and Knight Pistol who have both had archived moments immortalised in this new media sphere. Now everyone can enjoy Village Kid's time trial at Gloucester Park in 1993 where, in his last run aged 13, he posted a world record and fastest time of his life along with Knight Pistols overcoming a 60m handicap and Noopy Kiosk (off 10m) to break Pride of Petite's record by a full second at Moonee Valley.

The year was a busy one for HRA with animal welfare again dominating the work plan. It was five years in August since the amazing collaborative effort to eradicate Australia of Equine Influenza and it is satisfying that the lessons learned have led to Commonwealth and State Departments maintaining preparedness strategies for equine disease management - engaging closely with industry on education, training and research. The reality is that viruses and zoonotic diseases such as Hendra will continue to threaten equine health and therefore the industry, so it is important all industry sectors to understand and take responsibility for good Biosecurity practices.

Vigilance is crucial, particularly at the border, and HRA has been very active in helping shape the future of horse import programs and quarantine protocols via submissions and workshops with government agencies to reduce the burden of importing Standardbred's without increasing the risks of disease. New quarantine protocols will soon be announced with good news for Standardbred importers, particularly those looking to import pregnant mares and fillies.

The announcement of a new 144 hectare super quarantine facility at Mickelham, just north of Melbourne, to replace the current Eastern Creek facilities by the end of 2015, also brings opportunities to build dedicated amenities to better accommodate Standardbreds while in quarantine - particularly those travelling to Australia for major races - by providing training facilities and open yards.

With increasing public and animal welfare organisation scrutiny of racing activities, HRA has continued to establish strong relationships with the RSPCA, Animal Health Australia and others to build on a number of initiatives designed to monitor and strengthen the industry's welfare reputation. The Standardbreds Unharnessed post-racing re-training program is a perfect example. The program continues to gain momentum and has attracted national publicity through mainstream media thanks to the dedication and collaborative efforts of industry participants, HRA and State Controlling Bodies. Further, HRA is establishing a non-racing Studbook for unregistered or part-Standardbreds in order that they can formally participate in other competitive equine pursuits.

Welfare standards and guidelines for horses are also being developed in conjunction with Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), a division of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Such guidelines will provide owners with information regarding relevant legislation, transportation, sheltering, feeding and other environmental information.

More specifically, HRA is now well equipped to monitor racing injuries and trends via injury and incident reporting by raceday veterinarians. The Injury and Incident Report records the details of every veterinary examination of a horse on raceday, regardless of reason. The results are entered into the database and collated regularly to monitor trends and identify any emerging issues which may include track size, horse age, race distance or other environmental factors.

Animal welfare also dovetails into integrity areas, where vigilance is being maintained by stewards and veterinarians in a number of key areas such as prohibited substance, whip, cruelty and bleeding rules.

Integrity matters were also central in HRA's presentation to the Australasian Racing Ministers Conference in May, where the introduction of criminal sanctions for race fixing and a review of discipline structures across States, comparing civil and racing tribunal efficiencies were called for. HRA also highlighted our own efforts to improve information sharing among jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies, as well as international collaboration on intelligence sharing.

2011-12 also continued to highlight the benefits of exchanging racing product with international jurisdictions. Harness racing product imported from North America grew to 3 meetings per week with the addition of meetings from Yonkers and Balmoral. The continuing Meadowlands and feature race coverage combined to see wagering growing to average close to \$140,000 per meeting. The internationalisation of Australian trotting also continued with Group 1 races broadcast live into European destinations including the huge market of France and should continue to grow.

Closer to home, the broadcast presentation of harness racing amongst a hectic domestic racing schedule is an issue the industry continues to grapple with, particularly given the revenue impact of reduced lead-in times, cluttered scheduling and new media opportunities. Efforts are being made to improve the broadcast position on behalf of the industry via Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) approved collective bargaining with Sky Channel (Sky), but progress has been slow due to validity and public detriment arguments by Sky. It is disappointing that a collaborative approach to important industry wellbeing issues is not supported by one of the industry's most influential partners.

The year ahead also looks busy with a number of important policy initiatives being currently reviewed by HRA including horse identification (microchipping), the Grand Circuit and national funding model via centralised registration.

The eagerly awaited independent Size & Scope study of the national harness racing industry will also provide opportunities to re-engage with government on taxation relief and funding for education, training and ownership initiatives.

Interestingly, many of these initiatives have their genesis within the Australian Standardbred Breeding Panel Report which has also had an impact in other areas such as new stallion service payment options, competitive pricing, quality stallions, recognition of the need for real-time breeding data and international sponsorship agreements.

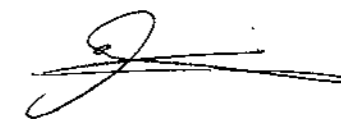
I am honoured to have been reappointed for a further three years and look forward to serving the HRA Members and wider industry on these and other important activities.

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

Vital to the success of HRA is the relationship with our Members. I would like to thank their Boards, Chief Executives and senior management for their continued support, guidance and confidence given the day-to-day challenges of their own organisations.

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

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



**Andrew Kelly**  
CEO



Village Kid driven by Chris Lewis, pictured here in full flight during one of his feature wins



## THE YEAR THAT WAS

IT IS REASSURING TO THE INDUSTRY TO KNOW THAT MANUFACTURERS SEE OUR MARKET AS BEING STRONG AND WORTHY OF INVESTMENT ■

### Harness Racing Australia – The year that was!

It only seems like yesterday that we were writing for last year's annual report! We have settled in well to the new office and are enjoying the amenities that are provided in the Racing Victoria Building. We have been able to unveil our library and it's pleasing to report that a number of enthusiasts have made use of our vast array of books, magazines and other items.

It truly has been a busy year with some significant changes having occurred.

The main changes we have implemented relate to our online services. A recommendation out of the breeding panel report was to improve access to our breeding reports. We made the decision to remove the subscription cost which has been well received. We have also enhanced our top twenty reports to make these more user friendly.

Our dedicated team continue to do a great job organising names, DNA, Studbook, imports and exports as well as Stallion registrations. In the last 12 months we handled in excess of 13,000 horse related transactions. We have started a project to look at the benefits of having a centralised registration process and will report on this more in next year's report. It is only early days but things do look promising.

Last year we did a tender process to select our insurance broker and this year it was to select our DNA service provider. At the conclusion of the process we are proud to be continuing our association with MAXXAMS. Out of this new deal we have been able to obtain a direct benefit to our breeding industry with \$1 from every DNA test being directed straight back to our breeding industry.

We have also changed the insurance underwriter for the personal accident coverage. After an exhausting process we made the change to Accident and Health to provide this cover. Enhancements include the ability to apply for higher levels of loss of income protection, something that the industry participants had requested we investigate. We are also able to continue the cover for the visiting New Zealand licence holders at a very competitive rate. Road shows are currently on the way to fully explain the policy and cover levels to all participants.

Another innovation has been the use of Go Pro camera technology to bring the action of harness racing even closer to our followers. We have used these on helmets, sulkies, mobile barriers and will continue to enhance and develop this. The movies are edited and loaded to YouTube and have had a very high rate of views. A movie from the Monte race attracted in excess of 1,000 hits!

In the last 12 months we have tested and re tested a number of new gear and equipment items including wheels and sulkies. It is reassuring to the industry to know that manufacturers see our market as being strong and worthy of investment. HRA co-ordinates the testing and forwards the reports to the Chief Stewards for them to do the final approvals.

Finally we have been working to enhance our animal welfare activities and to this end we have been working on the re-homing of standardbreds and increasing the awareness

of these through the use of social media. Our Facebook page, Standardbreds Australia Unharnessed has over 230 friends and is rising quickly.

Following on from the success of Sydney Equitana 2011 we have committed to having stalls in the Breed Village at Equitana 2012 and will be showcasing the Standardbred over the four days of this event. In doing this we will be working closely with the Standardbred Pleasure Performance Horse Association of Victoria (SPPHAV) to increase the awareness of the breed as being suitable for any number of activities.

In summary we will continue to work with the State Controlling Bodies and Industry Associations to ensure that both the sport of harness racing and the Standardbred are showcased to increase awareness and grow the participant numbers in both the racing and pleasure and performance activity markets.







**Harness Breeders Contribution to the Australian Economy**

In 2012, Harness Racing Australia (HRA) commissioned the first industry wide assessment of the economic and social importance of harness racing in Australia. As part of this study, the report assessed the direct expenditure and economic impacts generated by the breeding sector throughout each of the states of Australia.

**THE BREEDING SECTOR IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN AS IT PROVIDES AND REPLENISHES THE RACING STOCK FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HARNES RACING INDUSTRY. THERE ARE NEARLY 6,100 REGISTERED BREEDERS IN AUSTRALIA WITH APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OPERATING IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.**

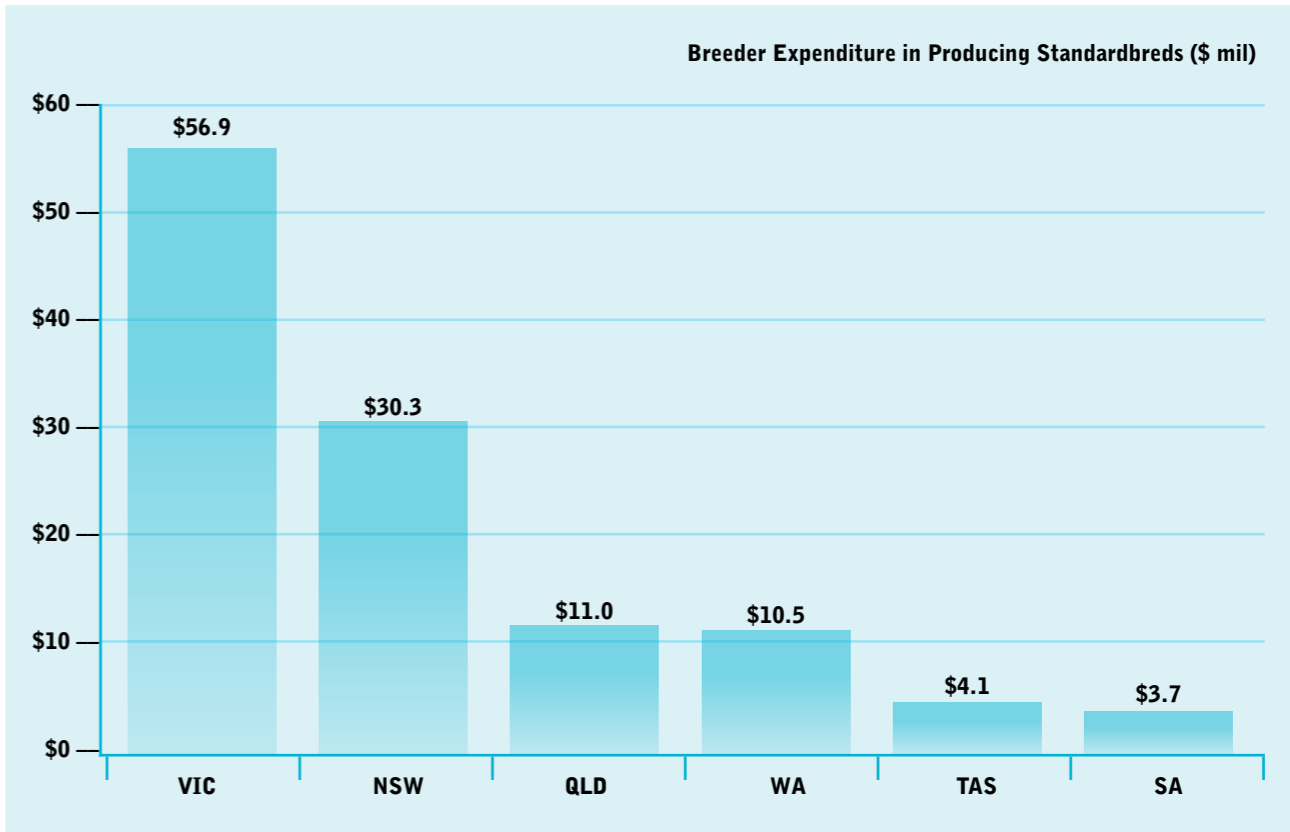
The study found that the States with the largest number of broodmares were Victoria (5,246) and NSW (3,233), followed by Western Australia (1,304) and Queensland (1,295). In total, it is estimated that the Australian harness

racing industry had an active broodmare population of just over 12,000 horses. However, just over 7,000 broodmares are bred to annually, as many breeders elect to not breed with their entire livestock each year. Some breeders choose to allocate funds saved (by not breeding with a particular mare(s) to secure higher quality stallions for the remaining broodmares in their stock.

The breeding sector of the industry generates significant economic impacts at a national level through the different stages of production, from gestation through to the development of the yearling. The study assesses the expenditure by breeders associated with dry mares, mares in foal, foaling, weanling and yearling cost and sales preparation if required.

Harness breeders spent more than \$116 million within Australia during the 2010-11 racing season on the maintenance and production of their breeding stock. The following graph illustrates the direct expenditure by breeders per state. The study revealed that the majority of harness breeding expenditure takes place in Victoria (\$56.9 million) and NSW (\$30.3 million).

The study revealed that a sizeable component of the economic contribution that occurs is derived from stallion fees. Stallions are sought after through artificial insemination by harness breeders both domestically and overseas. As an example, in 2010/11 stallion fees alone contributed over \$10 million in direct expenditure to the Victorian economy.



Source: - Size and Scope of the Australian Harness Racing Industry



# GAVIN LANG - MR. 5000



Gavin Lang and Ken Latta (HRV Chairman)

Mention the name Gavin Lang in harness racing circles, and you'll evoke an almost universal chorus of praise and admiration.

The Victorian horseman's unsurpassed talent extends far beyond his renown in the sulky – he has the unique ability to bring together an industry well known for its strong, vocal and diverse opinions.

Quite simply, Lang is applauded the length and breadth of the nation – and well beyond - as a champion. He is the reinsman whose driving style is envied from Gloucester Park to Menangle, and Launceston to the Gold Coast. He's the iceman whose calmness under pressure and judgement in a tight finish is unparalleled. He's the man most likely to encourage a horse to give 110 percent effort without the use of a whip and find a gap where seemingly none existed.

And now the humble 53 year old has also been officially acknowledged as Australasia's most successful harness racing driver.

On August 13 this year, Lang became the first reinsman in Australia or New Zealand to notch 5000, career wins when he partnered Takeiteasonme to victory at Warragul. The location of the milestone, in the State's picturesque south-east, was appropriate – his birthplace.

It's the latest feather in Lang's heavily embellished cap and an achievement he reflects upon with his customary humility and just a hint of personal pride.

"To be honest, I suppose I was a little complacent about it all at the time," he admitted.

"There was a bit of publicity building up to the record

but I didn't get too caught up in the countdown – I knew it would eventually happen and even when it was just around the corner, I probably still looked at it as just another win".

"But don't get me wrong, it was pretty special when it did finally happen."

Lang was born into harness racing royalty, a member of arguably the local industry's most famous and revered family.

He embraced his regal bloodlines from an early age and under the guidance of his legendary father Graeme, is one of the lucky few who can look back on their professional achievements with a strong sense of "destiny fulfilled".

Indeed, Lang recalls having grand plans to conquer the world from his earliest teenage driving days.

"I had a lot of goals back then. I was pretty ambitious and yes, I wanted to be the best," he said.

Lang's first win came aboard Pensive Dream at Kilmore in 1975 and the significance of the victory that launched his astonishing career has never been lost.

"The horse was trained by my Dad, and owned by the Rogers family at Ballarat who were long-time family friends so I was pretty excited".

"I guess it was just as much of a buzz to drive my 5,000th winner, but the context was obviously different," he admitted.

Unsurprisingly, Lang believes his father can take credit for having the single greatest influence on his driving success.

But strong parental guidance is just one of the reasons why he has climbed to the highest rung on the harness racing ladder.

"It's difficult to pinpoint exactly why I've been able to achieve success over such a long period of time, but I think the fact that I've never been tied to any one particular leading stable is a reason," Lang hinted.

"I've been in the fortunate position to sit in the wings for a number of top trainers and take over when their number one driver has been outed or had commitments elsewhere."

Lang was the reinsman of choice, however, throughout the decorated career of outstanding trotter True Roman and will always have the greatest admiration for, and appreciation of the role he played in elevating his name to the industry's forefront.

"I view longevity as a sign of greatness, and True Roman won 73 races from the age of two to 11, and competed at the very best level for many years," he recalled fondly.

For sheer talent, guts and determination, however, the pacer known affectionately as Percy will forever remain a favourite.

"Persistency ranks as my proudest professional achievement," Lang revealed.

"A lot of people didn't know the extent of the problems he endured, starting with ringbone which he developed as a three year old.

"He battled seemingly endless challenges throughout his racing life but still competed successfully from two through until he was nine, and even won a Group One race at his final start (the Tasmanian Pacing Championship) before being diagnosed with a hole in a hind suspensory, caused by a protruding bone in a hind leg, which ended his career," he said.

Lang has dabbled in training at various stages throughout his life but admits he will forever be known first and foremost as a driver.

It's a label that sits comfortably.

"The turning point probably came 10 or 12 years ago. All of a sudden I seemed to be driving a lot of nice horses that were regularly coming up in opposition to horses I trained.

"Although I had never trained a big team, my father suggested it was an opportune time to relinquish training horses to remove the risk of losing good drives and that's the direction I chose" he explained.

Lang believes race driving success is reliant on a combination of hard work, good luck, opportunity and an ingrained aptitude for the craft.

"While I think the best horsemen have a natural talent, there's no doubt experience is a great benefit – in fact, when it comes to driving experience it is hard to beat," he said.

"It's hard to say what separates the good drivers from the best but if there's one difference, a great driver probably makes fewer mistakes."



Gavin Lang, Chris Lang, Chris Lang Jnr. and Graeme Lang

## In Profile

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name:                     | Gavin Lang                    |
| Star Sign:                | Scorpio                       |
| Lucky Number:             | Eight                         |
| Car Of Choice:            | Nissan Maxima                 |
| Favourite Colour:         | Blue                          |
| Favourite Meal:           | Japanese                      |
| All-Time Favourite Horse: | Persistency                   |
| Favourite Track:          | Ballarat (no sprint lane)     |
| Ideal Alternate Career:   | AFL footballer                |
| Place Most Like To Visit: | Italy                         |
| Bucket List Number One:   | To travel                     |
| Best Advice Ever Given:   | Hard work never killed anyone |



Doug Cameron (President Warragul Harness Racing Club), John Wilkins (CEO Warragul Harness Racing Club), Gavin Lang, Ken Latta







**YOUNG DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIP**

THE RACING IN ALL HEATS WAS FIERCELY CONTESTED WITH THE 7 HEATS BEING SHARED BY 6 DRIVERS

The Australasian Young Drivers Championship is the pinnacle of racing for the young drivers who are chosen to represent their States and the two islands of New Zealand. This year the event was held in conjunction with the Perth Inter Dominion series with racing conducted at Pinjarra, Northam, Narrogin with the last of the seven heats being held on Inter Dominion Grand Final night in Perth.

The drivers were well looked after during the series by Megan Schrader and Angie Morris.

- The drivers for the 2012 chapter were:
- Morgan Woodley (Western Australia)
  - Ellen Tormey (Victoria)
  - Ken Rogers (South Australia)
  - Kerry Ann Turner (New South Wales)
  - Barton Cockburn (Queensland)
  - Todd Rattray (Tasmania)
  - Tim Williams (New Zealand – South Island)
  - Zac Butcher (New Zealand – North Island)
  - Simon McMullan (New Zealand – Current NZ Young Driving Champion)
  - Josh Dickie (New Zealand – Defending Champion)

The racing in all heats was fiercely contested with the seven heats being shared by six drivers. Tim Williams drove a double at Narrogin which was a great achievement. Maybe the Narrogin track is similar to some of the NZ South Island tracks.

Heading into the final heat at Gloucester Park three drivers were separated by one point. Ellen Tormey, by virtue of a win and a second led on 48 points, followed by Tim Williams, courtesy of his double the prior evening and Ken Rogers who was a model of consistency through the series, both on 47. The reality was that any of seven drivers had a chance to win based on the result of this final race. This emphasised the closeness of the series.

The final race was a great spectacle in front of a large Perth Inter Dominion crowd. Bart Cockburn was able to lead from barrier one and withheld a number of challenges to maintain the lead and, although headed turning for home, was able to coax the best out of his horse to kick back and score a win. Ellen who had been drawn behind Bart in barrier eight was the beneficiary of this drive being able to follow all the way to finish second and score sufficient points to win the series.

The old adage of leading from pillar to post had some relevance with Ellen leading the series throughout after winning heat one earlier in the week. The final result saw Ellen Tormey from Victoria win with 60 points, with Bart Cockburn second with 57 and Ken Rogers third with 53.

At the presentation Ellen was joined by her proud parents Alison and John which capped off a great series for her.

Congratulations to all participants, RWWA and the GPHR, and we look forward to the next series in NSW in 2013.



Ken Latta (HRV Chairman), Ellen Tormey with proud parents John and Alison Tormey.

**10 Quick Questions for Ellen**

- Name: Ellen Tormey
- From: Charlton
- Favourite Food: Pizza
- Favourite Horse: Blacks a Fake
- Best horse driven: Mister Castleton
- Biggest influence on career: My dad, John Tormey and Kerryn Manning
- Greatest highlight to date: Winning the 2yo Tatlow final with Mister Castleton and also winning the Australasian Young Drivers in Perth
- Favourite holiday destination: Palm Cove
- First winner was: Franco Whiz
- Where do you think you will be in 10 years? No idea but I will still be involved with horses. I am studying business part time at university so maybe I will have a real job. If I was not a harness driver I would be... a vet!



Morgan Woodley







# FROM PENTHOUSE CLUB TO GROUP ONE GLORY

I COULDN'T READ OR WRITE BUT I LOVED THE HORSES AND THE RACING. I CUT UP SMALL BITS OF PAPER WITH HORSE'S NAMES WRITTEN ON THEM AND PLAY RACES ON THE FLOOR AND PRETEND I WAS BILL COLLINS CALLING THE RACES ■



Robert Auber is well known to the Harness Racing Industry as a host, presenter, tipster and owner. There is little doubt though that his true passion is breeding.

Robert fell in love with harness racing at the age of four. His father on Saturday nights would watch the Penthouse Club in the early 70's on Channel 7 and they would show the trots live from the Showgrounds. "I couldn't read or write but I loved the horses and the racing. I cut up small pieces of paper with horses names written on them and play races on the floor and pretend I was Bill Collins calling the races!"

Growing up in my teenage years in Bulleen I had two close neighbours involved with harness racing, the Foxwell and Franzoni families who would take me to the trots with them at the Showgrounds and Moonee Valley. Grant Foxwell and I have grown up together since we were 13 and we are currently still racing horses together. Whilst back in the 80's the Franzoni family raced the brilliant horse Corfu with Ian Dornauf, and I would go to his stables on weekends and my school holidays to jog and drive a few horses for Ian. This is where I met Paul Males and we have been great friends ever since.

I purchased my first horse, Smooth Motion, in December 1988 when I was 23 years old. The horse was syndicated to 13 people which included some of my friends from the Australian Taxation Office and my racecaller friends Dan Mielicki, Ron Hawkswell and Arthur Cooper. The horse finished up with a good career of 57 starts for eight wins and 10 placings. The horse that gave me my first metropolitan winner in August 1992 was Big Bagman who won two at Moonee Valley and two at Harold Park and finished 3rd in The Carousel Final at Bankstown.

In 1993 I purchased a mare called Sheza Beauty who was a full sister to top performer Heza Jazz (\$112,677). Sheza Beauty was at the end of her racing career however we

raced her without any real success and decided to breed with her. We bred her to What's Next however the mare died not long after foaling her first foal – Precious Milly. I remember working her in trackwork at Paul Males and she was a very slow horse she had seven race starts for 0 placings. Precious Milly was the only horse I had out of the family, so I decided to breed on with her.

Precious Milly bred four fillies for two winners but the horse that showed plenty of ability was Bella Aurora. She raced five times as a 2yo and unfortunately broke down in the 2yo \$100,000 Vicbred Final in July 2003, where she was unlucky not to have won it. Bella Aurora was the horse I decided to breed on from the family and seven years later her second foal turned out to be Bellas Delight (\$341,310).

The other family I have bred with has been Adversity. I purchased her out of the trotting weekly in March 1998 and she turned out to be a good horse for me having raced 34 times for nine wins and 10 placings (\$32,865). Her two foals to date have been Tayarna Mia a metropolitan winner in 1.55.0, 70 starts 8 wins and 29 placings for \$58,938 in earnings and her other daughter She's Irresistible who is currently still racing 51 starts, seven wins and 18 placings \$39,350.

I started breeding with my two foundation mares in Sheza Beauty and Adversity and I am now continuing from their daughter's in Bella Aurora and Tayarna Mia. One day I look forward to breeding from my little star Bella's Delight however it won't be happening in a hurry, as there's still plenty of racing remaining in her fast legs!

I have a number of unraced horses still to race from both sides of the families that show ability, however like all of my horses we are giving them the time to develop until they are ready to go. The future looks promising from my unraced breeding stock.





## CHRIS ALFORD LEADING DRIVER OF THE YEAR



Chris Alford and Ross Payne celebrate Breeders Crown glory.

### Chris Alford is the epitome of the class.

Born in 1968, the son of prominent and popular trainer/driver Barry was destined to have a role in harness racing, and it is no surprise that the consummate professional has achieved greatness in his chosen career.

Alford is one of only four men to drive in excess of 4,000 winners in the Southern Hemisphere, an honour he shares with Gavin Lang (see feature article), Daryl Douglas and Chris Lewis.

Among his many accolades, he can also lay claim to being a Group One winning trainer.

Season 2011/2012 was another magic year for the Victorian horseman who took out the J.D. Watts Award for the nation's leading driver with 336 wins.

It was a well deserved success after Alford who had finishing second in the previous three years and marked another career milestone – the first season in which he had topped 300 wins.

Alford has previously taken out the J.D. Watts Award in 1993/94 and 1995 – 2000 inclusive.

Based in Bolinda with his wife Alison and children Katie and Sam, Alford, better known to harness followers as "Puppet" because of his deft handwork, has had the good fortune to be associated with some of the best horses in Australasia.

His maiden Group One success came aboard Golden Reign in the 1993 Victoria Derby and the same horse went on to provide



Alford with the ultimate prize – the 1995 Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Grand Final – in Christchurch.

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

Alford partnered the striking chestnut to victory in the 2003 Hunter Cup and went on to beat all bar Baltic Eagle in that year's Inter Dominion Grand Final in Christchurch.

After battling ill health for a number of years Barry sadly passed away in 2006.



Alford represented Australia in the 1997 World Driver's Championship in Germany, driving three winners over the course of the prestigious event and showcasing his talents on the biggest stage.

At a local level, he has also utilised his profile within the industry to raise awareness for Neurofibromatosis (NF) – his daughter Katie has been diagnosed with the condition.

Alford has registered promotional race silks and wore the colours throughout May 2011 to promote an enormously successful fundraising project.

## GRANT DIXON LEADING TRAINER OF THE YEAR



Grant Dixon

### What a year it turned out to be for star Queensland horseman Grant Dixon.

In his first official season as head trainer of the massive Tamborine operation which is Team Dixon, Grant maintained the frenetic pace that his legendary father Bill had set over the past four racing years.

In what was a roller coaster ride for Dixon, it was a season that had everything.

Dixon experienced the highest of highs but also, the lowest of lows.

No race track highlight shined brighter than the emergence of freakish rookie pacer Majestic Mach who made a perfect start to his career with an unbeaten season, the Mach Three gelding winning all nine starts including three Group One features.

In his final start as a freshman pacer, Majestic Mach started as an unbackable favourite in the \$100,000 Group One 2YO RQIS Final for colts and geldings at Albion Park and success looked assured but there was another story developing that was set to rock the industry.

Dixon, 39, was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia.

In the days leading up to the feature event, Dixon was struggling and his health was deteriorating at a rapid rate but he desperately wanted to be there for his star pupil.

He passed up his full book of drives that night with the exception of Majestic Mach, and the illness was a distant memory during that two minute window of pacing excellence as he guided Majestic Mach to another brilliant victory.

On the same night, Dixon also prepared the \$100,000 Group One 2YO RQIS Fillies winner in Rani Major, providing winning reinsman Bart Cockburn with his maiden Group One success.

It was Majestic Mach who proved to be the stable star during the 2011/12 season winning the Australian Pacing Gold, Nursery Pace plus the RQIS Final while amassing more than \$300,000 in prizemoney.

Dixon stood himself down from race driving for the last five weeks of the season as he underwent treatment for his illness but the stable kept churning out the winners.

In total, the 'Black & White' army produced 265 winners from 1630 starters during the term with total stakes exceeding \$2 million

The stable had 66 metropolitan winners which also netted Dixon the Albion Park Trainers Premiership.

Star 2YO's Majestic Mach, Rani Major and Geared For Action laid a very strong foundation for the stable and all look set for exciting careers.

Other notable performers for the stable last season included Only The Brave (6 wins), Monarkmac (7 wins), Ace Light (5 wins), Wrath Of Rosie (5 wins) and Arkabar (4 wins) among others.

Obviously the new season promises so much and Dixon is adamant that he will lead from the front again. That's the Dixon way.

And another highlight for Dixon is just around the corner – the birth of his first child with partner Trista Baz which is due in November.





# 2012 HRA AWARD WINNERS

## J.D. WATTS AWARDS

**Leading Trainer of the Year**  
Grant Dixon 265 Wins

**Leading Driver of the Year**  
Chris Alford 336 Wins

## AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR

### IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ

## LAWN DERBY AWARDS - PACERS

### AUSTRALIAN PACER OF THE YEAR - IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ

Owners: Beth Richardson, Glen Moore, Gary Ralston, Mark Congerton, Joe Barber, Henry McManus and Karen Hall Trainer: Gary Hall Snr. Breeder: William Kennedy Performances: 13 starts 9 wins 3 placings \$1,250,060 P.1:53.5ms

### AGED HORSE/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ

Owners: Beth Richardson, Glen Moore, Gary Ralston, Mark Congerton, Joe Barber, Henry McManus and Karen Hall Trainer: Gary Hall Snr. Breeder: William Kennedy Performances: 13 starts 9 wins 3 placings \$1,250,060 P.1:53.5ms

### AGED MARE PACER OF THE YEAR - MAKE MINE CULLEN

Owner: Anderson Racing Trainer: Glenn Douglas. Breeder Roger Bazley Performances: 28 starts 12 wins 5 placings \$268,250 P.1:54.3ms

### 3YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - SCANDALMAN NZ

Owner: Estate of John Joseph Thompson Trainer: Ian Wilson Breeder: John Thompson Performances: 11 starts 6 wins 5 placings \$221,535 P.1:55.0ms

### 3YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR - MARQUESS DE POSH NZ

Owner: John Starr Trainer: Paul Fitzpatrick Breeders: LG & A Dawkins Performances: 15 starts 11 wins 3 placings \$257,283 P.1:54.5ms

### 2YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR - MAJESTIC MACH

Owner: Solid Earth Pty Ltd. Trainer: Grant Dixon Breeder: Solid Earth Pty Ltd Performances: 9 starts 9 wins \$310,855 P.1:55.8ms

### 2YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR - ARMA XPRESS

Owner: Jim Currie Trainer: Noel Keiley. Breeder: Jim Currie Performances: 8 starts 7 wins 0 placings \$255,470 P.1:57.4ms



# 2012 HRA AWARD WINNERS

## VANCLEVE AWARDS - TROTTERS

### AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR - I CAN DOOSIT NZ

Owner: Breckon Racing Syndicate Trainer: Mark Purdon Breeder: Breckon Bloodstock Limited Aust Performances: 3 starts 3 wins \$173,000 TR.2:00.4ms

### AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR - I CAN DOOSIT NZ

Owner: Breckon Racing Syndicate Trainer: Mark Purdon Breeder: Breckon Bloodstock Limited Aust Performances: 3 starts 3 wins \$173,000 TR.2:00.4ms

### AGED TROTTING MARE OF THE YEAR - MISS WARBUCKS

Owner: Chris Lang Jnr and Haley Toulmin Trainer: Chris Lang Jnr. Breeder RT & SA James & GP Hampton Performances: 13 starts 3 wins 2 placings \$55,845 TR.1:58.2ms

### 3YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR - SUNSET INVASION

Owner: Sandra Garbutt Trainer: Jodie Quinlan Breeder M.Scarpino and R. Minchillo Performances: 14 starts 5 wins 5 placings \$84,865 TR.1:59.4ms

### 3YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR - SHES AN IMAGE

Owner: Jack Humphrey & Terrence Humphrey Trainer: Chris Lang Snr. Breeder: Jack Humphrey & Terrence Humphrey Performances: 11 starts 7 wins 2 placings \$81,813 TR.2:01.2ms

### 2YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR - BLITZTHEMCALDER

Owner: Richard & Jane Burchell Trainer: Ross Payne Breeder: Richard & Jane Burchell Performances: 13 starts 10 wins 0 placings \$164,060 TR.1:59.6ms

### 2YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR - SPIDERGIRL

Owner: Sheron Park Pty Ltd. Trainer: David Aiken Breeder: Solid Earth Pty Ltd Performances: 5 starts 3 wins 1 placing \$41,675 TR.2:04.2ms

## GLOBE DERBY AWARDS - SIRE

### BETTORS DELIGHT

Leading sire by Stakemoney 296 Starters 209 Winners 659 Wins \$5,756,868

### ART MAJOR USA

Leading Juvenile Sire by Stakemoney: 223 Starters 135 Winners 340 Wins \$3,228,671

### SUNDON USA

Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney: 78 Starters 41 Winners 103 Wins \$816,300

## WINONA AWARD

### AUSTRALIAN BROODMARE OF THE YEAR - INTRUDE

(F1996) by Fake Left USA from Avonali by Toliver Hanover USA from Stormy Helen by Stormyway USA.

Overall Record: Dam of 8 of Racing Age - 5 winners 4 in 2:00 2011/2012 Record: 3 winners 17 wins 22 placings \$327,993

**BILLY BADLANDS** (P.2:00.6ms) 24 starts 2 wins 11 placings \$14,268

**MAKE MINE CULLEN** (P.1:54.3ms) 29 starts 13 wins 5 placings \$281,750 • 2012 Queen of the Pacific \$100,000 - G1 (DK Douglas) Tabcorp Park, Melton, Vic • 2012 Australasian Breeders Crown Graduate Pacers FFA \$60,000 - G2 (DK Douglas) Tabcorp Park, Melton, Vic • 2012 Vic Ladyship Cup \$30,000 - G3 (DK Douglas) Tabcorp Park, Melton, Vic • 2012 Australasian Breeders Crown Graduate Mares FFA \$25,000 - Listed (DK Douglas) Tabcorp Park, Melton, Vic • 2012 George Johnson \$20,000 (DK Douglas) Hobart, Tas

**ROGERS PASSION** (P.1:59.5ms) 17 starts 2 wins 6 placings \$31,975





# NATIONAL STATISTICS

RACE TIME 2:01.9  
LEAD TIME 0.0  
MILE RATE 30.1

THE YEAR IN STATISTICAL REVIEW ■

## PRIZEMONEY

### Wagering Summary: 2004/2005 - 2011/2012

|                          | 2004/2005       | 2005/2006       | 2006/2007       | 2007/2008       | 2008/2009       | 2009/2010       | 2010/2011       | 2011/2012       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Australia Total Wagering | \$1,855,917,017 | \$1,847,795,444 | \$1,963,601,713 | \$1,747,292,165 | \$1,997,501,561 | \$1,999,606,294 | \$1,997,582,106 | \$1,995,584,524 |
| % Change by year         | 2.35%           | -0.44%          | 6.27%           | -11.02%         | 14.32%          | 0.11%           | -0.10%          | -0.10%          |

### 2011/2012 Top 10 Starters - by Prizemoney

| Name                  | Age | Sex     | Starts | Wins | Season Best Mile Rate | Aust Season Prizemoney | *Career Prizemoney |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------|------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ  | 7YO | GELDING | 13     | 9    | 1:53.5MS              | \$1,250,060.00         | \$3,293,106        |
| SMOKEN UP NZ          | 9YO | GELDING | 20     | 12   | 1:51.1MS              | \$1,084,957.00         | \$3,215,718        |
| MR FEELGOOD USA       | 9YO | HORSE   | 18     | 7    | 1:51.1MS              | \$455,824.00           | \$3,366,157        |
| MAJESTIC MACH         | 2YO | GELDING | 9      | 9    | 1:55.8MS              | \$310,855.00           | \$310,855          |
| CHOISE ACHIEVER NZ    | 5YO | GELDING | 3      | 1    | 1:59.9                | \$295,625.00           | \$484,526          |
| WASHAKIE NZ           | 8YO | GELDING | 21     | 8    | 1:52.5MS              | \$285,252.00           | \$1,393,123        |
| MAKE MINE CULLEN      | 6YO | MARE    | 29     | 13   | 1:54.3MS              | \$281,750.00           | \$874,178          |
| MYSTA MAGICAL MACH NZ | 7YO | GELDING | 30     | 3    | 1:55.5MS              | \$279,425.00           | \$1,016,956        |
| CARIBBEAN BLASTER     | 4YO | HORSE   | 17     | 8    | 1:52.6MS              | \$267,675.00           | \$353,410          |
| RAGLAN NZ             | 6YO | GELDING | 14     | 4    | 1:53.0MS              | \$261,095.00           | \$443,714          |

\* Career Prizemoney as at 31st August 2011 - includes Aust and Overseas performances

### 2011/2012 Top 10 Sires - by Prizemoney

| Sire                  | Starters | Winners | Wins | Prizemoney  | Aust | 2YO | 2YO | 2YO         | 2YO | 3YO | 3YO | 3YO         | 3YO |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|------|-------------|------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|
| BETTORS DELIGHT USA   | 296      | 209     | 659  | \$5,756,868 | 49   | 25  | 55  | \$1,059,932 | 78  | 53  | 152 | \$1,244,791 |     |
| ART MAJOR USA         | 342      | 225     | 558  | \$4,493,952 | 93   | 53  | 104 | \$1,447,062 | 130 | 82  | 236 | \$1,781,609 |     |
| MACH THREE CA         | 211      | 139     | 398  | \$4,227,773 | 41   | 23  | 51  | \$677,825   | 46  | 33  | 106 | \$974,985   |     |
| COURAGE UNDER FIRE NZ | 224      | 150     | 464  | \$4,087,300 | 25   | 8   | 15  | \$179,563   | 17  | 16  | 41  | \$364,829   |     |
| CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ   | 294      | 182     | 487  | \$3,858,027 | 24   | 11  | 20  | \$155,565   | 33  | 19  | 43  | \$335,658   |     |
| VILLAGE JASPER USA    | 365      | 205     | 476  | \$2,852,414 | 22   | 6   | 7   | \$65,898    | 43  | 22  | 57  | \$346,018   |     |
| LIVE OR DIE USA       | 271      | 157     | 398  | \$2,768,362 | 27   | 9   | 13  | \$108,889   | 38  | 28  | 83  | \$569,668   |     |
| ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA  | 328      | 173     | 408  | \$2,534,998 | 16   | 8   | 16  | \$113,376   | 64  | 38  | 89  | \$575,556   |     |
| WASHINGTON VC USA     | 78       | 51      | 151  | \$2,490,487 | 1    | 1   | 2   | \$7,150     | 8   | 4   | 18  | \$261,797   |     |
| LIFE SIGN USA         | 332      | 179     | 392  | \$2,409,407 | 46   | 16  | 24  | \$197,246   | 91  | 37  | 73  | \$359,056   |     |

### 2011/2012 Top 10 Broodmare Sires - by Prizemoney

| Broodmare Sire       | Starters | Winners | Wins | Prizemoney  | Aust | 2YO | 2YO | 2YP       | 2YO | 3YO | 3YO | 3YO         | 3YO |
|----------------------|----------|---------|------|-------------|------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-----|
| HOLMES HANOVER USA   | 481      | 285     | 772  | \$5,282,227 | 42   | 17  | 42  | \$582,258 | 79  | 45  | 114 | \$804,002   |     |
| SOKYS ATOM USA       | 306      | 183     | 447  | \$4,822,710 | 26   | 9   | 14  | \$289,150 | 54  | 28  | 66  | \$569,962   |     |
| FAKE LEFT USA        | 355      | 218     | 570  | \$4,133,802 | 61   | 30  | 68  | \$965,584 | 91  | 54  | 137 | \$955,504   |     |
| SAFELY KEPT USA      | 353      | 179     | 433  | \$3,427,025 | 65   | 23  | 31  | \$291,787 | 92  | 41  | 110 | \$1,165,557 |     |
| FALCON SEELSTER USA  | 208      | 140     | 391  | \$3,288,902 | 11   | 6   | 11  | \$333,688 | 38  | 21  | 63  | \$480,759   |     |
| IN THE POCKET USA    | 210      | 130     | 379  | \$2,875,371 | 23   | 9   | 22  | \$332,429 | 48  | 26  | 63  | \$355,620   |     |
| ARMBRO OPERATIVE USA | 257      | 137     | 360  | \$2,541,877 | 34   | 11  | 31  | \$392,919 | 67  | 34  | 84  | \$663,877   |     |
| CAMTASTIC USA        | 47       | 31      | 93   | \$2,149,422 | 2    | 1   | 2   | \$14,643  | 7   | 5   | 14  | \$95,002    |     |
| TROUBLEMAKER USA     | 199      | 106     | 293  | \$1,949,855 | 22   | 8   | 13  | \$156,104 | 40  | 16  | 34  | \$191,580   |     |
| CLASSIC GARRY        | 318      | 157     | 345  | \$1,924,270 | 38   | 11  | 16  | \$194,443 | 57  | 26  | 42  | \$201,049   |     |



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

| Season      | One Mile            |               | Distances           |               | Total        |        | One Mile            |               | Distances           |               | Total               |               |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
|             | 2.00.0 PERFORMANCES | 2.00.0 HORSES | 2.00.0 PERFORMANCES | 2.00.0 HORSES | PERFORMANCES | HORSES | 1.55.0 PERFORMANCES | 1.55.0 HORSES | 1.55.0 PERFORMANCES | 1.55.0 HORSES | 1.55.0 PERFORMANCES | 1.55.0 HORSES |
| 2011-2012   | 1,437               | 978           | 3,959               | 2,158         | 5,396        | 2,694  | 243                 | 164           | 93                  | 75            | 336                 | 144           |
| 2010-2011   | 1,265               | 886           | 3,528               | 1,953         | 4,793        | 2,482  | 121                 | 89            | 72                  | 61            | 193                 | 144           |
| 2009-2010   | 1,101               | 831           | 3,230               | 1,826         | 4,331        | 2,372  | 42                  | 39            | 50                  | 34            | 92                  | 71            |
| 2008-2009   | 985                 | 752           | 2,576               | 1,498         | 3,561        | 2,250  | 21                  | 20            | 9                   | 8             | 30                  | 27            |
| 2007-2008** | 547                 | 469           | 2,016               | 1,248         | 2,485        | 1,795  | 12                  | 12            | 5                   | 5             | 17                  | 17            |
| 2006-2007*  | 595                 | 488           | 2,376               | 1,408         | 2,003        | 1,896  | 5                   | 5             | 9                   | 8             | 14                  | 11            |
| 2005-2006   | 495                 | 408           | 2,176               | 1,337         | 2,671        | 1,745  | 5                   | 5             | 6                   | 5             | 11                  | 10            |
| 2004-2005   | 532                 | 449           | 2,021               | 1,253         | 2,553        | 1,702  | 3                   | 3             | 8                   | 8             | 11                  | 11            |
| 2003-2004   | 416                 | 352           | 1,632               | 1,027         | 2,048        | 1,379  | 3                   | 3             | 4                   | 2             | 7                   | 4             |
| 2002-2003   | 459                 | 372           | 1,265               | 838           | 1,724        | 1,210  | 2                   | 2             | -                   | -             | 2                   | 2             |
| 2001-2002   | 488                 | 387           | 1,068               | 721           | 1,556        | 1,108  | 2                   | 2             | 1                   | 1             | 3                   | 3             |
| 2000-2001   | 362                 | 295           | 1,092               | 717           | 1,454        | 1,012  | 8                   | 7             | 2                   | 2             | 10                  | 9             |
| 1999-2000   | 378                 | 294           | 1,041               | 699           | 1,419        | 993    | 2                   | 2             | -                   | -             | 2                   | 2             |
| 1998-1999   | 351                 | 277           | 911                 | 597           | 1,262        | 874    | 3                   | 3             | 1                   | 1             | 4                   | 4             |
| 1997-1998   | 292                 | 233           | 754                 | 532           | 1,046        | 765    | 4                   | 4             | -                   | -             | 4                   | 4             |
| 1996-1997   | 288                 | 232           | 731                 | 499           | 1,019        | 731    | 2                   | 2             | 1                   | 1             | 3                   | 3             |
| 1995-1996   | 258                 | 209           | 493                 | 356           | 751          | 565    | 2                   | 2             | 1                   | 1             | 3                   | 3             |
| 1994-1995   | 196                 | 165           | 379                 | 263           | 575          | 428    | -                   | -             | -                   | -             | -                   | -             |
| 1993-1994   | 215                 | 182           | 412                 | 289           | 627          | 471    | 1                   | 1             | -                   | -             | 1                   | 1             |
| 1992-1993   | 214                 | 171           | 285                 | 193           | 499          | 364    | 1                   | 1             | -                   | -             | 1                   | 1             |
| 1991-1992   | 195                 | 167           | 336                 | 242           | 531          | 409    | 2                   | 2             | 1                   | 1             | 3                   | 3             |

## 2011/2012 Top 20 Fastest - Pacers

| Horse                 | Age | Sex     | Rate     | Distance | Date       | Driver          | Trainer         | Track                     |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| OHOKA NEVADA NZ       | 7YO | GELDING | 1:51.0MS | MILE     | 28/04/2012 | D J BINSKIN     | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MR FEELGOOD USA       | 9YO | HORSE   | 1:51.1MS | MILE     | 19/11/2011 | L A MCCARTHY    | J P MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SMOKEN UP NZ          | 9YO | GELDING | 1:51.1MS | 1,720M   | 04/02/2012 | J D JUSTICE     | L J JUSTICE     | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |
| FRANCO JAMAR NZ       | 5YO | HORSE   | 1:51.2MS | MILE     | 24/09/2011 | L A MCCARTHY    | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| CAPTAIN JOY           | 6YO | GELDING | 1:51.4MS | MILE     | 14/04/2012 | J B WILLOCK     | S M HUNTER      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| OUR CROWN LAW NZ      | 6YO | HORSE   | 1:51.4MS | MILE     | 03/09/2011 | A M SIEJKA      | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| EXCEL STRIDE          | 4YO | HORSE   | 1:51.5MS | MILE     | 14/04/2012 | L A MCCARTHY    | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IM FULLA LUCK NZ      | 6YO | GELDING | 1:51.6MS | MILE     | 24/06/2012 | T J GILLIGAN    | D J MCCALL      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| FOX VALLEY APPEAL USA | 9YO | GELDING | 1:51.7MS | MILE     | 10/03/2012 | M K SULLIVAN    | M K SULLIVAN    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MISTER ANTHONY        | 7YO | GELDING | 1:51.7MS | MILE     | 30/03/2012 | A M DAY         | D J THORN       | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| ERLE DALE NZ          | 4YO | GELDING | 1:51.8MS | MILE     | 24/03/2012 | G J FITZPATRICK | P J FITZPATRICK | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| FRANCO JAMAR NZ       | 5YO | HORSE   | 1:51.8MS | MILE     | 28/10/2011 | L A MCCARTHY    | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SMOKEN UP NZ          | 9YO | GELDING | 1:51.8MS | MILE     | 26/11/2011 | L J JUSTICE     | L J JUSTICE     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IRISH SAILOR NZ       | 7YO | GELDING | 1:51.9MS | MILE     | 29/11/2011 | D R HANCOCK     | D R HANCOCK     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| UK CONNECTION NZ      | 7YO | GELDING | 1:51.9MS | MILE     | 23/12/2011 | M P RUE         | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| STRIKE UP THE BAND NZ | 7YO | GELDING | 1:52.0MS | MILE     | 28/01/2012 | M P RUE         | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| ATOM OF COURAGE NZ    | 5YO | GELDING | 1:52.1MS | MILE     | 04/02/2012 | R P MORRIS      | P M RUSSO       | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| EXCEL STRIDE          | 4YO | HORSE   | 1:52.1MS | 1,720M   | 03/08/2012 | L A MCCARTHY    | J P MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |
| GLENGOWAN NZ          | 4YO | GELDING | 1:52.1MS | MILE     | 28/01/2012 | D J BINSKIN     | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| STRIKE UP THE BAND NZ | 7YO | GELDING | 1:52.1MS | MILE     | 06/01/2012 | M C MUSCAT      | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |

## 2011/2012 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Pacers

| Horse                | Age at Race | Sex     | Rate     | Distance | Date       | Driver          | Track                     |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>PACERS</b>        |             |         |          |          |            |                 |                           |
| <b>Overall</b>       |             |         |          |          |            |                 |                           |
| MR FEELGOOD USA      | 9YO         | ENTIRE  | 1:51.1MS | MILE     | 19/11/2011 | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| OUR TORIAS SECRET NZ | 7YO         | MARE    | 1:52.3MS | MILE     | 24/03/2012 | M P RUE         | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SAN RAFAELLA CA      | 6YO         | MARE    | 1:52.3MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | MP RUE          | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| OHOKA NEVADA NZ      | 7YO         | GELDING | 1:51.0MS | MILE     | 28/04/2012 | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| <b>4YO+</b>          |             |         |          |          |            |                 |                           |
| MR FEELGOOD USA      | 9YO         | ENTIRE  | 1:51.1MS | MILE     | 19/11/2011 | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| OUR TORIAS SECRET NZ | 7YO         | MARE    | 1:52.3MS | MILE     | 24/03/2012 | M P RUE         | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SAN RAFAELLA CA      | 6YO         | MARE    | 1:52.3MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | MP RUE          | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| OHOKA NEVADA NZ      | 7YO         | GELDING | 1:51.0MS | MILE     | 28/04/2012 | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| <b>3YO</b>           |             |         |          |          |            |                 |                           |
| GRAND STRIDE         | 3YO         | COLT    | 1:52.6MS | MILE     | 13/03/2012 | L A MCCARTHY    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| LOUVRE               | 3YO         | FILLY   | 1:54.5MS | MILE     | 17/03/2012 | J B WILLOCK     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MARQUESS DE POSH NZ  | 3YO         | FILLY   | 1:54.5MS | MILE     | 28/01/2012 | B P FITZPATRICK | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| CONDAGEN             | 3YO         | GELDING | 1:52.7MS | MILE     | 07/07/2012 | D G PICKER      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| <b>2YO</b>           |             |         |          |          |            |                 |                           |
| FLAMING FLUTTER NZ   | 2YO         | COLT    | 1:53.9MS | MILE     | 25/08/2012 | G F WEBSTER     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MILLWOOD LIBERTY NZ  | 2YO         | FILLY   | 1:55.6MS | MILE     | 24/07/2012 | D J BINSKIN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| NO AH SAINT          | 2YO         | GELDING | 1:54.3MS | MILE     | 24/06/2012 | G J FITZPATRICK | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |

## 2011/2012 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Pacers

| Sex            | Horse                | Age | Starts | Wins | Stakemoney     | Best Mile Rate |
|----------------|----------------------|-----|--------|------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>PACERS</b>  |                      |     |        |      |                |                |
| <b>Overall</b> |                      |     |        |      |                |                |
| ENTIRE         | MR FEELGOOD USA      | 9YO | 18     | 7    | \$455,824.00   | 1:51.1MS       |
| MARE           | MAKE MINE CULLEN     | 6YO | 29     | 13   | \$281,750.00   | 1:54.3MS       |
| GELDING        | IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ | 7YO | 13     | 9    | \$1,250,060.00 | 1:53.5MS       |
| <b>4YO+</b>    |                      |     |        |      |                |                |
| ENTIRE         | MR FEELGOOD USA      | 9YO | 18     | 7    | \$455,824.00   | 1:51.1MS       |
| MARE           | MAKE MINE CULLEN     | 6YO | 29     | 13   | \$281,750.00   | 1:54.3MS       |
| GELDING        | IM THEMIGHTYQUINN NZ | 7YO | 13     | 9    | \$1,250,060.00 | 1:53.5MS       |
| <b>3YO</b>     |                      |     |        |      |                |                |
| COLT           | SCANDALMAN NZ        | 3YO | 11     | 6    | \$221,535.00   | 1:55.0MS       |
| FILLY          | MARQUESS DE POSH NZ  | 3YO | 15     | 11   | \$257,282.50   | 1:54.5MS       |
| GELDING        | IM VICTORIOUS NZ     | 3YO | 8      | 7    | \$207,000.00   | 1:55.5MS       |
| <b>2YO</b>     |                      |     |        |      |                |                |
| COLT           | BIT OF A LEGEND NZ   | 2YO | 2      | 1    | \$189,345.00   | 1:57.5MS       |
| FILLY          | ARMA XPRESS          | 2YO | 8      | 7    | \$255,470.00   | 1:57.4MS       |
| GELDING        | MAJESTIC MACH        | 2YO | 9      | 9    | \$310,855.00   | 1:55.8MS       |



## 2011/2012 Top 20 Fastest - Trotters

| Horse               | Age | Sex     | Rate       | Distance | Date       | Driver          | Trainer     | Track                     |
|---------------------|-----|---------|------------|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| SAVONA NZ           | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:55.4MS | MILE     | 14/04/2012 | M C MUSCAT      | D J THORN   | BENDIGO (VIC)             |
| DEALORNODEAL NZ     | 5Y0 | MARE    | TR1:55.5MS | MILE     | 19/02/2012 | C W LANG        | C W LANG    | BENDIGO (VIC)             |
| SAVONA NZ           | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:56.1MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | D J THORN       | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MEXICAN INVASION NZ | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:56.5MS | MILE     | 03/09/2011 | D R HANCOCK     | D R HANCOCK | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| ALEPPO MIDAS        | 4Y0 | MARE    | TR1:56.6MS | MILE     | 10/03/2012 | C A ALFORD      | M K EASTMAN | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IDID IT MYWAY NZ    | 9Y0 | GELDING | TR1:56.6MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | D J THORN       | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| MEXICAN INVASION NZ | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.1MS | MILE     | 19/06/2012 | G J FITZPATRICK | D R HANCOCK | BENDIGO (VIC)             |
| COLD SISTER USA     | 4Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.3MS | 1,720M   | 23/12/2011 | D AIKEN         | D AIKEN     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IM BROWNIE NZ       | 8Y0 | GELDING | TR1:57.3MS | MILE     | 11/08/2012 | M C MUSCAT      | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SAVONA NZ           | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.3MS | MILE     | 20/03/2012 | D J THORN       | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |
| RED SAMURAI         | 9Y0 | HORSE   | TR1:57.5MS | MILE     | 21/01/2012 | S M ADAMS       | R W ADAMS   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IM BROWNIE NZ       | 8Y0 | GELDING | TR1:57.6MS | MILE     | 17/02/2012 | D J THORN       | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| TEN COMMANDERS      | 6Y0 | GELDING | TR1:57.6MS | MILE     | 03/01/2012 | R W ADAMS       | R W ADAMS   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IM BROWNIE NZ       | 8Y0 | GELDING | TR1:57.7MS | MILE     | 21/07/2012 | M C MUSCAT      | D J THORN   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| ALEPPO MIDAS        | 4Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.8MS | MILE     | 19/02/2012 | C A ALFORD      | M K EASTMAN | BENDIGO (VIC)             |
| DEALORNODEAL NZ     | 5Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.8MS | 1,690M   | 17/03/2012 | L M MILES       | C W LANG    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| REAL DEAL YANKEE NZ | 7Y0 | GELDING | TR1:57.8MS | MILE     | 17/12/2011 | D R HANCOCK     | D R HANCOCK | SHEPPARTON (VIC)          |
| DEALORNODEAL NZ     | 5Y0 | MARE    | TR1:57.9MS | MILE     | 10/03/2012 | C W LANG        | C W LANG    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IM RITE OR WRONG NZ | 5Y0 | MARE    | TR1:58.0   | MILE     | 07/02/2012 | R P MORRIS      | K A TURNER  | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| BILLY PHELPS NZ     | 4Y0 | GELDING | TR1:58.0MS | MILE     | 09/04/2012 | R P MORRIS      | M A TRACEY  | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| EARL OF MOT NZ      | 8Y0 | GELDING | TR1:58.0MS | 1,720M   | 30/03/2012 | J J CALDOW      | L J JUSTICE | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |

## 2011/2012 Fastest Performers - by Age/Sex - Trotters

| Horse             | Age | Sex     | Rate       | Distance | Date       | Driver         | Track                     |
|-------------------|-----|---------|------------|----------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>TROTTERS</b>   |     |         |            |          |            |                |                           |
| <b>Overall</b>    |     |         |            |          |            |                |                           |
| RED SAMURAI       | 9Y0 | ENTIRE  | TR1:57.5MS | MILE     | 21/01/2012 | S M ADAMS      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SAVONA NZ         | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:55.4MS | MILE     | 14/04/2012 | M C MUSCAT     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IDID IT MYWAY NZ  | 9Y0 | GELDING | TR1:56.6MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | D J THORN      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| <b>4Y0+</b>       |     |         |            |          |            |                |                           |
| RED SAMURAI       | 9Y0 | ENTIRE  | TR1:57.5MS | MILE     | 21/01/2012 | S M ADAMS      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SAVONA NZ         | 7Y0 | MARE    | TR1:55.4MS | MILE     | 14/04/2012 | M C MUSCAT     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| IDID IT MYWAY NZ  | 9Y0 | GELDING | TR1:56.6MS | MILE     | 11/05/2012 | D J THORN      | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| <b>3Y0</b>        |     |         |            |          |            |                |                           |
| AMORE STRIDE NZ   | 3Y0 | COLT    | TR1:59.9MS | MILE     | 19/03/2012 | M P RUE        | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SHEER ILLUSION    | 3Y0 | FILLY   | TR2:01.1MS | MILE     | 10.04.12   | D R HANCOCK    | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SUNSET INVASION   | 3Y0 | GELDING | TR1:59.4MS | 1,720M   | 01/06/2012 | JODI N QUINLAN | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |
| <b>2Y0</b>        |     |         |            |          |            |                |                           |
| BLITZTHEMICALDER  | 2Y0 | COLT    | TR1:59.6MS | MILE     | 08/05/2012 | L A MCCARTHY   | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |
| SPIDERGIRL        | 2Y0 | FILLY   | TR2:04.2ms | 2240m    | 06.07.12   | C A ALFORD     | TABCORP PK MELTON (VIC)   |
| OFFICIALLY FOURTH | 2Y0 | GELDING | TR1:59.7MS | MILE     | 12/06/2012 | K A TURNER     | TABCORP PK MENANGLE (NSW) |

## 2011/2012 Leading Stakeswinners - by Age/Sex - Trotters

| Sex             | Horse            | Age | Starts | Wins | Stakemoney   | Best Mile Rate |
|-----------------|------------------|-----|--------|------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>TROTTERS</b> |                  |     |        |      |              |                |
| <b>Overall</b>  |                  |     |        |      |              |                |
| COLT            | BLITZTHEMICALDER | 2Y0 | 13     | 10   | \$164,060.00 | TR1:59.6MS     |
| FILLY           | SHES AN IMAGE    | 3Y0 | 11     | 7    | \$81,812.50  | TR2:01.2MS     |
| GELDING         | I CAN DOOSIT NZ  | 6Y0 | 3      | 3    | \$173,000.00 | TR2:00.4MS     |
| <b>4Y0+</b>     |                  |     |        |      |              |                |
| ENTIRE          | RED SAMURAI      | 9Y0 | 28     | 3    | \$53,317.50  | TR1:57.5MS     |
| FILLY           | SAVONA NZ        | 7Y0 | 13     | 7    | \$71,795.00  | TR1:55.4MS     |
| GELDING         | I CAN DOOSIT NZ  | 6Y0 | 3      | 3    | \$173,000.00 | TR2:00.4MS     |
| <b>3Y0</b>      |                  |     |        |      |              |                |
| COLT            | AMORE STRIDE NZ  | 3Y0 | 14     | 5    | \$45,072.50  | TR1:59.9MS     |
| FILLY           | SHES AN IMAGE    | 3Y0 | 11     | 7    | \$81,812.50  | TR2:01.2MS     |
| GELDING         | SUNSET INVASION  | 3Y0 | 14     | 5    | \$84,865.00  | TR1:59.4MS     |
| <b>2Y0</b>      |                  |     |        |      |              |                |
| COLT            | BLITZTHEMICALDER | 2Y0 | 13     | 10   | \$164,060.00 | TR1:59.6MS     |
| FILLY           | SPIDERGIRL       | 2Y0 | 5      | 3    | \$41,675.00  | TR2:04.2MS     |
| GELDING         | SUN OF SONOKO    | 2Y0 | 8      | 4    | \$68,900.00  | TR2:03.0MS     |

## 2011/2012 Top 10 Trainers - by Wins

| Trainer            | Starts | Wins | Seconds | Thirds | Fourths | Metro Wins | Country Wins | Stakes      | Metro Stakes | Country Stakes | State |
|--------------------|--------|------|---------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| GRANT DIXON        | 1,630  | 265  | 248     | 239    | 223     | 66         | 199          | \$2,084,945 | \$1,178,169  | \$906,776      | QLD   |
| LUKE MCCARTHY      | 683    | 216  | 109     | 83     | 60      | 95         | 121          | \$2,778,587 | \$2,016,694  | \$761,893      | NSW   |
| JOHN MCCARTHY      | 910    | 160  | 130     | 96     | 80      | 72         | 88           | \$1,846,384 | \$1,349,484  | \$496,900      | NSW   |
| GREG AND SKYE BOND | 795    | 158  | 110     | 81     | 76      | 53         | 105          | \$1,677,261 | \$1,098,443  | \$578,818      | WA    |
| VICKI RASMUSSEN    | 722    | 150  | 116     | 90     | 76      | 46         | 104          | \$1,111,535 | \$632,857    | \$478,678      | QLD   |
| STEVE TURNBULL     | 974    | 145  | 163     | 140    | 104     | 3          | 142          | \$864,369   | \$106,805    | \$757,564      | NSW   |
| GLENN DOUGLAS      | 1,159  | 140  | 140     | 160    | 143     | 32         | 108          | \$1,360,537 | \$723,114    | \$637,423      | VIC   |
| GARY HALL (SNR)    | 479    | 118  | 74      | 54     | 43      | 56         | 62           | \$2,628,405 | \$2,256,280  | \$372,125      | WA    |
| EMMA STEWART       | 324    | 112  | 50      | 35     | 33      | 26         | 86           | \$1,228,114 | \$832,435    | \$395,679      | VIC   |
| JOHN MCMULLEN      | 1,056  | 112  | 102     | 109    | 111     | 14         | 98           | \$541,654   | \$165,180    | \$376,474      | QLD   |

## 2011/2012 Top 10 Drivers - by Wins

| Driver          | Starts | Wins | Seconds | Thirds | Fourths | Metro Wins | Country Wins | Stakes      | Metro Stakes | Country Stakes | State |
|-----------------|--------|------|---------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| CHRIS ALFORD    | 1,744  | 336  | 194     | 221    | 181     | 38         | 298          | \$2,447,358 | \$1,052,445  | \$1,394,913    | VIC   |
| DARYL DOUGLAS   | 2,255  | 290  | 314     | 303    | 285     | 37         | 253          | \$2,296,480 | \$942,565    | \$1,353,915    | VIC   |
| GREG SUGARS     | 1,289  | 227  | 167     | 144    | 131     | 54         | 173          | \$2,091,831 | \$1,237,283  | \$854,548      | SA    |
| GRANT DIXON     | 1,106  | 208  | 200     | 164    | 149     | 38         | 170          | \$1,557,088 | \$782,655    | \$774,433      | QLD   |
| MORGAN WOODLEY  | 1,318  | 202  | 171     | 152    | 114     | 50         | 152          | \$2,153,158 | \$1,237,793  | \$915,365      | WA    |
| GAVIN LANG      | 1,005  | 188  | 124     | 127    | 117     | 24         | 164          | \$1,460,544 | \$679,082    | \$781,463      | VIC   |
| COLIN BROWN     | 971    | 173  | 124     | 106    | 81      | 48         | 125          | \$1,737,854 | \$987,998    | \$749,857      | WA    |
| DAVID HARDING   | 683    | 172  | 108     | 106    | 73      | 55         | 117          | \$460,091   | \$229,270    | \$230,821      | SA    |
| NATHAN JACK     | 1,097  | 170  | 125     | 112    | 137     | 13         | 157          | \$1,247,952 | \$500,239    | \$747,713      | VIC   |
| GARY HALL (Jnr) | 746    | 167  | 117     | 77     | 71      | 58         | 109          | \$2,905,753 | \$2,233,865  | \$671,888      | WA    |





THE ULTIMATE SPEED TEST OF AUSTRALASIAN HARNESS RACING PRODUCED ANOTHER THRILLING FINISH WITH SMOKEN UP DEFYING GALLANT WARRIOR KARLOO MICK WHILE WEST AUSTRALIAN SUPERSTAR IM THEMIGHTYQUINN MANAGED THIRD PLACE ■

The Australasian Grand Circuit is for the best of the best. Both sides of the Tasman.

And the 2011/12 season delivered yet again producing electrifying exciting and emotional racing where only the great survive.

Ageing warrior Smoken Up thrived on the big stage and collected the title of Australasian Grand Circuit Champion after polling 25 points throughout the season while Im Themightyquinn polled 16 points, nine clear of Mr Feelgood who finished third with seven points.

It was the same trio of pacers that dominated the Grand Circuit the previous season, further underlining their champion qualities.

The season started on October 22 in Queensland under warm spring skies and former North American champion Mr Feelgood claimed back to back victories in the Group One \$200,000 Queensland Pacing Championship defeating Smoken Up and Hesa Buzzin.

The \$NZ600,000 New Zealand Cup is the race that stops a nation and emotional scenes were obvious with the success of emerging star Terror To Love for father/son training combination of Graham and Paul Court and popular driver Jimmy Curtin.

A striking stallion by Western Terror, Terror To Love stormed to victory defeating Australian raider Smoken Up with Highview Tommy finishing third.

Australian star Smoken Up gained revenge three days later on his rivals with a crushing victory in the \$NZ160,000 NZ FFA downing Franco Emirate and Pembroke Benny in the 2,000m feature.

There isn't a race that creates so much hype and expectation like the \$500,000 Miracle Mile in Sydney.

The ultimate speed test of Australasian harness racing produced another thrilling finish Smoken Up defying gallant warrior Karloo Mick while West Australian superstar Im Themightyquinn managed third place.

Smoken Up has now recorded back to back victories in the Miracle Mile and his liking for the open spaces at TABCORP Park, Menangle is apparent.

One of the bravest horses on the Grand Circuit is Washakie, the pint sized warrior owned by Perth connections while being trained in Brisbane by John McCarthy.

Washakie created history by becoming the first pacer to win the \$100,000 Treuer Memorial at Bankstown three times in succession after easily beating Mach Wiper and Hesa Buzzin.

Fresh from his success in the Miracle Mile, Smoken Up returned to his home state and scored a hard fought victory in the \$425,000 Victoria Cup at TABCORP Park, Melton holding off a gallant Mr Feelgood with Raglan finishing hard for third.

The focus headed west with the running of the \$400,000 WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park and hometown hero Im Themightyquinn blazed to victory defeating Dasher VC and Lightning Raider in brilliant time.

The following night in Adelaide, Smoken Up cemented his position at the top of the leader board with a clinical victory in the \$100,000 SA Cup for stand-in driver Greg Sugars as they easily held out Ohoka Nevada and Heza Trick.

With the action returning to Perth for the \$250,000 Fremantle Cup, Im Themightyquinn clearly demonstrated his brilliance with a stunning victory in front of his loyal fans when he outgunned Raglan and Lombo Navigator.

It was the third Fremantle Cup victory for Im Themightyquinn.

The upset of the season took place in the \$125,000 Ballarat Pacing Cup, the race was touted as a match race between established ace Smoken Up and rising star Sushi Sushi.

Sushi Sushi led and repelled the challenge from Smoken Up but the four year old couldn't withstand the late lunge from unheralded Kiwi Highview Tommy for Mark Purdon.

The Kiwis were to the fore again in the \$425,000 Hunter Cup at TABCORP Park, Melton with a quinella result after Choise Achiever edged out Auckland Reactor while Jaccka Clive ran a cracking race for third.

Choise Achiever provided trainer Tim Butt with his fourth Cup triumph while his brother Anthony posted his sixth Cup success.

The \$1 million Inter Dominion Pacing series was staged in Perth and Im Themightyquinn produced his brilliant best making a clean sweep of the series.

Im Themightyquinn capped the series with another dominant display in the Final holding off Mysta Magical Mach and Lombo Navigator giving the host state a perfect result.

The final leg of the Grand Circuit season was staged in the North Island of New Zealand with the running of the \$NZ234,000 Auckland Cup.

Sir Lincoln led most of the way holding out Terror To Love and Pembroke Benny.

The Trotters Grand Circuit was dominated by arguably, the brightest talent in the sport, I Can Doosit.

The champion square gaiter won five Grand Circuit events throughout the season and ended the season on a twelve race winning streak for trainer/driver Mark Purdon.

I Can Doosit tallied 25 points for the season, eight clear of Vulcan who collected 17 points during the season.

The season officially commenced in New Zealand and emerging star Vulcan winning the first two legs including the \$NZ80,000 NZ Trotting FFA while backing up to claim the \$NZ200,000 Dominion Handicap.

Action returned to Australia and the \$50,000 NSW Trotters Mobile staged at TABCORP Park, Menangle went the way of Miss Warbucks, the victory providing talented young horseman Chris Lang Jnr his biggest victory as a trainer.

The focus then switched to Melbourne and the \$60,000 Bill Collins Trotters Mile at Cranbourne was the next leg of the Grand Circuit and it was a huge upset with veteran trotter Will Trapper taking the spoils while the \$125,000 Australian Trotting Grand Prix the following week at TABCORP Park, Melton was taken out by the richly talented I Didnt Do It.

Heading back to New Zealand, I Can Doosit cruised to victory in the \$NZ80,000 National Trot at Alexandra Park before returning to Australia for the final ever \$250,000 Inter Dominion Trotting Championship and the Muscles Yankee gelding swept through the series undefeated before winning the Grand Final for the second straight year.

Vulcan, brave throughout the Inter Dominion series won his third Grand Circuit event of the season when he captured the \$50,000 V L Dullard Cup at TABCORP Park, Melton.

The \$NZ80,000 NZ Trotting Championship at Addington was won by I Can Doosit before heading to Auckland where he won the \$NZ200,000 ANZAC Cup and the \$NZ150,000 Rowe Cup.





THE GRAND FINAL WAS STAGED ON MARCH 2, AND THE PACKED CROWD WAITED WITH ANTICIPATION AS THE STAGE WAS SET FOR A THRILLING CLASH BETWEEN THE BEST PACERS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ■

The Inter Dominion is the ultimate prize in Australasian harness racing.

But, the series took on extra significance this year for both the pacers and the trotters following the announcement that the Inter Dominion will undergo a massive revamp.

The pacing series faces a fresh new look with the series set to be staged in Sydney for the next three years with major changes to the qualifying criteria while the trotting series was the end of an era, or, the start of a new beginning.

HRV has introduced The Great Southern Star series as the new focal point for down under trotting enthusiasts.

Modelled on Sweden's universally revered Elitlopp, the Great Southern Star will feature two Group One heats worth \$50,000 and a \$250,000 final all run on the same TABCORP Park, Melton program.

Both heats will be drawn randomly and staged over Melton's 1720m trip with 10 horses progressing to the final later in the day.

The series includes ambitious eligibility and race conditions which will be staged in March next year.

It's a bold step but one that is filled with great expectation and excitement.

So, the final ever Inter Dominion Trotting Championship staged in Melbourne belonged to the Kiwi's with superstar I Can Doosit etching his name in the history books.

His domination during the series was obvious and it also gave him back to back titles following on from his victory last year in Auckland.

The trotting series began at Shepparton with three heats staged, the opening heat was taken out by New Zealand raider Springbank Richard before Australian trotter Save A Sixpence claimed heat two but the most impressive performance on the opening night belonged to series favourite and defending champion I Can Doosit who scored in scorching style in the final heat.

With the second round of heats being staged at Ballarat, the Kiwi's took the series by the throat after completely dominating their Australian rivals.

The Fiery Ginga defeated Vulcan in heat four and Stylish Monarch claimed a strong heat victory beating Springbank Richard while I Can Doosit settled with a dead-heat victory with Australian star I Didn't Do It.

The scene was set for the final night to be staged at TABCORP Park, Melton and the trend continued in so many ways.

Firstly, the Kiwis had a firm grip on favouritism following their strong heat form and reigning champ I Can Doosit appeared to be getting stronger as the series grew longer.

I Can Doosit, aided by a tactical drive from trainer/driver Mark Purdon scored comfortably from fellow Kiwi compatriot and emerging big race talent Vulcan while Sovereignty completed the all New Zealand trifecta.

The Muscles Yankee gelding joins Scotch Notch, Pride Of Petite, Take A Moment and Sundons Gift as dual winners of the famed series.

The Inter Dominion Pacing series was staged in Perth at Gloucester Park, the original home of the great series

and expectations were high for the locals headed up by champion pacer Im Themightyquinn.

Conditions for the series were set with fields of nine contesting all heats with all runners starting from the front line.

New Zealand star Auckland Reactor scorched around the half mile oval in the opening heat while local pacer Crombie sprung a big upset winning the second heat before normality returned with favourites Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn winning their respective heats on the first night of action which were staged over 1700m.

The second round of competition was staged over 2100m and again the Kiwis struck first blood with Raglan proving to be a decisive winner followed by another impressive effort by Auckland Reactor while Smoken Up and Im Themightyquinn didn't disappoint their fans with clinical victories yet again.

With the final round of heats staged over the staying trip of 2506m, the class runners stood tall headed up by Smoken Up dominating his rivals while Auckland Reactor and Mr Feelgood both flexing their muscles but home town hero Im Themightyquinn stole the show again with another brilliant display.

The Grand Final was staged on March 2, and the packed crowd waited with anticipation as the stage was set for a thrilling clash between the best pacers in the southern hemisphere.

Early drama unfolded when Smoken Up came into contact with Mr Feelgood as they burned for the early lead, Smoken Up ultimately broke and lost all chance.

Mr Feelgood maintained the lead while Auckland Reactor raced without cover, Smoken Up took off three wide and applied pressure before that effort told on the star Victorian pacer.

Im Themightyquinn sat patiently at the back of the field before unleashing a big sprint in the final lap, Mysta Magical Mach also made his move at the same point forcing Im Themightyquinn even wider on the track.

In the straight, Im Themightyquinn drew clear and held Mysta Magical Mach and Lombo Navigator to claim back to back Inter Dominion titles.

Im Themightyquinn is trained by Gary Hall and is driven by Gary Hall Jnr.



Samantha Van Ross and Gary Hall Jnr. with Im Themightyquinn.





HRA WILL CONTINUE TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS AND REMOVE THESE UNFAIR BIASES. THEY ARE LITTLE STEPS BUT THEY ARE STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ■



Samercan Bey and Rachel Smith showcase the jumping ability of the Standardbred.

The Standardbreds Australia Unharnessed project has been steadily gaining momentum with the main emphasis being placed on removing the bias that exists around the Standardbred.

A number of relationships have been established and forums and workshops held. Key to this is working with State Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Associations. These groups use the Standardbred for pleasure activities based on their temperament and are not really concerned about whether they can perform on the track. Their enjoyment is in leisure and pleasure.

Primarily this has been done in Victoria and New South Wales with all activities carried out in conjunction with HRNSW and HRV as an expansion of programs that they have in place.

The most encouraging of these relationships so far has been with Riding for the Disabled (RDA). The fact that RDA (WA) was a charity identified by GPHR as part of the 2012 Inter Dominion also assisted in these relationships. Although tentative discussions had begun some time ago these have flourished in recent times and have risen to a new level when the first handover of a HRA sponsored Standardbred to RDA was undertaken.

The horse, Benucci (Ambro Operative \* Anna Sheffield), had 76 starts for \$108,000 in prize money and was retired due to some general soreness. The retraining was done by Nicole Tassone from Raising the Standards and he was in terrific condition and very warmly received.

HRA secured the support of AFL and Fox Football identity Danny Frawley (Danny's family has a long association with Standardbreds) to act as a program ambassador.

This handover included National Media coverage through the Channel Seven network with the story airing on Sunday

evening during the news broadcast (August 20th). The feedback from this has been extremely positive with links being placed on social media. The Facebook site [www.facebook.com/standardbredsaustraliaunharnessed](http://www.facebook.com/standardbredsaustraliaunharnessed) continues to attract more friends and is proving to be a very good medium in which to draw people together.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and given to RDA, with the emphasis being placed on the suitability of each individual horse to the program and is based on a set of standards provided by RDA.

Processes are in place to continue the pilot in Victoria with three more Standardbreds being prepared for handover to the RDA in the near future.

HRA will continue to promote awareness of the Standardbred and is doing so through actively being involved in forums including:

- Equitana
- Horse TV
- Social Media
- Promotion and support of Standardbred Horse Associations in each state
- Seeking sponsorship and support opportunities.

This focus on the breed will continue as it sits well with the HRA animal welfare policy and has a wide reaching community support. This work will continue with all states with the aim to be active in each during the upcoming year and having partnerships in place.

HRA will continue to break down the barriers and remove these unfair biases. They are little steps but they are steps in the right direction.





# State Reports



## THE WRAP FROM THE STATES ■



Ken Latta  
Chairman

### VICTORIA

HRV Chairman's Report for HRA Annual Report 2012.

I am pleased to report on the 2011/12 racing season in Victoria.

During the year Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) paid out a record \$34.5 million in stakes, an increase of 1.5% over the previous year.

The wagering climate continued to change, with a further shift away from the traditional parimutuel tote (6.6% decline), however TAB fixed odds compensated its recent trend with turnover growth of 270%.

#### Major Industry Awards

The industry's top award, the Gordon Rothacker Medal, was won in 2011 by Ted Demmler. Ted is an industry icon and as a trainer and driver was at the highest level for decades. Ted continues his long association with the sport of harness racing as an owner and in recent times he has enjoyed Group One success.

The Victorian Premierships for the 2011/12 season were won by:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Metropolitan Driver  | Greg Sugars   |
| Metropolitan Trainer | Glenn Douglas |
| State Driver         | Chris Alford  |
| State Trainer        | Glenn Douglas |
| Concession Driver    | Ellen Tormey  |

HRV conducted the following major events during the season:

The 2012 Breeders Crown was conducted in August. \$1.5 million in stakes was paid out on Super Sunday. Of the nine Group One races, five winners were trained in Victoria, and four from New Zealand. Blue Chip Farms from the USA came on board as naming rights sponsor and one of their stallions, Bettors Delight, sired three winners on the day.

The \$425,000 A G Hunter Cup, sponsored for the first time by Del Re National Food Group, attracted the largest crowd seen at Tabcorp Park since its opening and New Zealander Choice Achiever stole the show.

The \$250,000 Seelite Windows and Doors Inter Dominion Trotting Final was the last of its kind to be held and again New Zealand prevailed with outstanding trotter I Can Doosit etching the final name on the perpetual trophy. HRV looks forward to the inaugural Great Southern Star in March 2013.

The \$200,000 Alabar Victoria Derby was won by New South Wales visitor Scandalman;

The \$425,000 SEW-Eurodrive Victoria Cup attracted yet another high class field and was won by Victorian Horse of the Year Smoken Up in a tight finish from Mr Feelgood.

The \$100,000 Nevele R Victoria Oaks was won by Emma Stewart trained Beauty Secret. Emma had an outstanding Group One winning season.

#### Achievements

There were many positive achievements and events during the year:

The first year of the Board's Strategic Plan required a number of initiatives to be introduced. Implementation of the Plan is essentially in accordance with the time-table. Significantly, HRV announced a new race series the Great Southern Star, which will be run in March 2013 for the first time. As part of the Plan's strategy to internationalise the trotting gait, HRV will conduct a \$350,000 trotting event which will comprise two heats and a final on the same program – a similar concept to the famed Elitloppet in Sweden.

The Ballarat Club celebrated 150 years of history. From those early days when the Club ran events for 7 guineas in the 1860's, Ballarat has been a leading Club and this year announced its 2013 Pacing Cup will increase to \$150,000 in prizemoney.

Ellen Tormey, representing Victoria, won the Australasian Young Drivers Championship, held in Perth to coincide with the Inter Dominion. The highlight for Ellen was winning the title on Grand Final night at Gloucester Park with parents John (President Charlton Harness Racing Club) and Alison in the stands.

The Victorian Choice Hotels Country Cup Circuit showed a resurgence in 2011/12. Overall there was significant growth in attendances and on course wagering across the Cup season. Annual, one-off community Cup meetings were also re-introduced in Wangaratta, Ouyen and Boort, and will extend to Wedderburn, St Arnaud and Gunbower in 2012/13.

The harness racing industry once again showed its compassion for one of its own. The Tiffany Murray Foundation appeal raised over \$100,000 at various functions, in support of Tiffany, Leigh Sutton and their daughter Milla. Tiffany subsequently lost her battle with cancer in October 2011.

Likewise the Lyn McPherson Memorial Breed for Speed night in March raised \$80,000 for the Women's Cancer Foundation – Ovarian Cancer Institute.

The \$6 million Vicbred Super Series was sponsored for the first time this year by Empire Stallions. Vicbred will be enhanced in 2012/13 by the announcement of the Vicbred Platinum Series, with support from the State Government and Harness Breeders (Vic) providing a boost to not only racing prizemoney, but particularly the Victorian breeding industry.

Gavin Lang driving his 5,000th winner on Monday August 13 at Warragul was a highlight. Gavin is the first person to achieve this outstanding feat in the Southern Hemisphere, however Chris Alford is hot on his heels, currently on 4,673 at year's end.







### NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday 30 March was a watermark moment for the harness racing industry in NSW when the High Court of Australia dismissed the challenges to Race Fields Legislation by Betfair and Sportsbet.

The decision is significant in many ways, but most importantly it provides some certainty around our future funding model.

TAB distribution has remained stagnant over the past six years and is significantly down in real terms.

Since 2006 the fissure between the Consumer Price Index and TAB distribution has widened to 20% putting significant pressure on the return to owners and participants, although HRNSW has still been able to increase prizemoney by 13% during that time.

Race Fields fees will be used to alleviate any remaining disparity.

In FY12 HRNSW collected over \$6 million in Race Fields which equates to approximately 15% of our total income.

But it is important that we persist in this regard as pressure for the wagering dollar is immense and customer preferences are changing.

The explosion of fixed odds betting highlights such a shift.

Tabcorp continues to expand its fixed odds options and for many of our meetings it accounts for 20-25% of the total volume of turnover through the NSW TAB.

But the Race Fields victory allows us to do much more than simply increase prizemoney.

Additional income has also been set aside for breeding, marketing and integrity initiatives.

While the Race Fields judgment represents our apex in FY12, the police investigation into the harness racing industry and the arrests made in connection is obviously the counter-point.

It was a very difficult period for the industry, but on the positive side it enabled HRNSW to develop a close working relationship with the Police.

This, in conjunction with a complete and comprehensive overhaul of our regulatory functions, including a doubling of the integrity budget, provides a strong platform for the future.

On the track, the amazing warhorse Smoken Up continued his Menangle Park dominance by defending both his Miracle Mile and Len Smith Mile crowns.

Our two most important brands – the Breeders Challenge and Carnival of Cups – continued to deliver outstanding results.

A number of clubs conducted TAB race meetings for the first time, or for the first time in a significant period, as part of the Carnival of Cups roster.

The Breeders Challenge concept has unquestionably lifted the quality of stallions standing in NSW and the resultant progeny.

For the third consecutive season in NSW foal numbers increased defying national and indeed international trends.

Kerry Ann Turner was selected to represent NSW at the Australasian Young Drivers Championship in Perth.

Ms Turner is a hard working young lady who has proved to be both a very talented trainer and driver.

We continue to expand our IT and social media presence with Trots TV leading the way.

The visitation and popularity of Trots TV has been extremely encouraging and the growth in both facebook and twitter is unsurprising.

In summary, HRNSW experienced a major high and a devastating low in FY12.

But despite the controversy and the unwanted media, I am confident that it will be a year we can look back on as pivotal to economy of the industry and groundbreaking for its integrity.

And finally, we simply can't wait for the new look Inter Dominion to roll around next year.

I hope to see you all there.



### TASMANIA

After a realignment of \$230,000 of feature race stakes money in 2010/11, a further \$94,000 was realigned in 2011/12. The outcome has been important for the harness code in the state – there were more races and starters, turnover increased and the harness code in Tasmania benefited from an increase in relative market share of national wagering.

Races in 2011/12 totalled 778 (692 on Sky) compared to 765 (662) in 2010/11, starters increased from 7149 last financial year to 7,366 this year, the average starters per race in 2011/12 was maintained for this reporting period (9.47 compared to 9.35) and national wagering on Tasmanian harness product totalled \$64 million compared to \$60.7 million.

As noted above, relative market share of national wagering in Tasmania 2011/12 the figure was 18.79%. This compares very favourably with interstate jurisdictions.

An important highlight for the harness code for 2011/12 was the conduct of training and trials at Tapeta Park at Spreyton.

The possibility of holding harness meetings at Spreyton on a synthetic track (believed to be an Australian-first) emerged after the success of the training sessions (twice weekly), a workout and four trials. (A successful harness meeting was conducted at Tapeta Park on July 25 2012, outside the reporting period of the 2011/12 Annual Report).

The work could not have been completed without the cooperation and support of many stakeholders – including the Devonport Racing Club, the Devonport Harness Racing Club and Racing Services Tasmania.

Industry training continued to be a focus through 2011/12. At the end of the financial year, a Recognised Prior Learning

process for all trainers, drivers and stablehands that linked formal qualifications with licensing was almost completed. It is the same process completed for thoroughbred trainers, stablehands and jockeys in July 2011. It marks an important milestone on recognizing existing skills in the industry and ensures it is aligned with national norms and standards.

In 2010/11 and 2011/12 Tasracing implemented a strategy to increase the number of harness starters leading to increased field sizes and more races aimed at maximising turnover.

A first for Tasmanian harness racing was achieved at the country venues of Burnie and Carrick with the telecast of a meeting each on Sky 2. The clubs involved assisted with costs and turnover was well above expectations.

The management of harness form to provide information free of charge to punters on [www.tasracing.com.au](http://www.tasracing.com.au) and [www.harness.org.au](http://www.harness.org.au) was an important development in 2011/12. Just as important was the availability of Tasmanian harness race replays on the same web sites. Social media was also used very effectively to increase reach to customers and build awareness and engagement with new generations of race fans.

In September 2011, Claiming Novice Driver (CND) conditions were amended to increase the number of claiming novice drivers and to extend their involvement in Tasmanian harness racing. As a result, 25 novice drivers were registered in July 2012 compared to 14 at the same time last calendar year.

A new race series was conducted for CNDs – the BOTRA Claiming Novice Driver series in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport in April which was well supported and reaffirmed Tasracing's strategy to improve attractiveness and accessibility of the sport to new participants.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2011/12 through a Tasbred bonus distribution of \$246,000, abolition of foal notification fees and Tasbred series payments saving breeders more than \$50,000, allocation of \$276,000 to stakes for Tasbred heats and finals and Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments of more than \$95,000.

The support of the breeding industry was also provided through Tasracing's ongoing commitment to the Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale that was conducted at Inveresk in January. Thirty one horses were presented for sale with a colt reaching \$10,000 and two fillies attracting bids of \$8,000. The sale aggregate was \$153,600 for an average of \$4,955.

### 2011/12 Tasracing Harness Award Winners

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Smithwards Leading Female Driver Award   | Erin Hollaway                    |
| St Marys Pacing Club Leading Female Trainer Award                                  | Juanita Mckenzie                 |
| North Eastern Pacing Club Leading Junior Driver Award                              | Todd Rattray                     |
| Foot & Playsted Leading Driver Award   | Gareth Rattray                   |
| Saunders Signs Leading Trainer Award   | Grant Hodges                     |
| Safe and Sound @ Braebourn Stud Tasmanian 2Yo Filly of the Year Award              | Carly Seelster                   |
| Time Stands Still Tasmanian 2Yo Colt or Gelding of the Year                        | Palmisano                        |
| Burnie Harness Racing Club Tasmanian 3Yo Filly of the Year Award                   | High Flying Ruler                |
| Corporate Communications Tasmanian 3Yo Colt or Gelding of the Year Award           | Driller Mac                      |
| Big Park Stud Tasmanian Mare of the Year Award                                     | Queen Of Fire                    |
| Beachway Motel Ulverstone Tasmanian 4Yo & Older Horse or Gelding of the Year Award | Our Sir Jeckyl                   |
| Jetsonville Park Tasmanian Broodmare of the Year Award                             | Gorse Bush                       |
| Hivotech Innovation and Design Tasmanian Horse of the Year Award                   | Our Sir Jeckyl                   |
| Halwes Medal (Sponsored by Botra Tasmania and Jamie Cockshutt)                     | Gareth Rattray                   |
| Young Achiever (Sponsored by Botra Tasmania)                                       | Dylan Ford And Zeke Slater (Tie) |
| The Edgar Tatlow Medal   | Gerald Gee                       |







Kevin Dixon  
Chairman



## QUEENSLAND

The 2011/12 year has been one of significant transformation for the racing industry in Queensland with a change of government at the last election and the appointment of a new board of directors to Racing Queensland Limited (RQL).

These developments hold the promise of greater surety and sustainability into the future for the three codes of racing in Queensland. At this early stage we are seeing greater government support, and the benefit of a board with hands on industry experience. We believe these to be important components as we attempt to guide the industry in these trying economic times of ever increasing expense to own and train a racehorse.

The RQL Board of Directors consists of Kevin Dixon (Chairman), Greg Hallam (Deputy Chairman), Warwick Stansfield (Harness) and John Falvey (Greyhounds).

In the near future, three code specific statutory boards will sit under the All Codes Board. Currently legislation is being drafted to allow for this additional level of governance, with the members of these boards to be appointed from the respective industries.

The Board is committed to the retention of Albion Park, is currently addressing the redevelopment options of Albion Park as a state of the art harness racing complex. The Board is also considering the options for greyhound racing, including the possible relocation to its own facility.

The future of the Parklands facility as a harness racing venue is at this stage unclear, as the site is targeted as the site of the 2018 Commonwealth Games village. RQL continues to work with Government on the possible solutions.

A recent exercise to ascertain if harness racing could be conducted on the thoroughbred cushion track at Clifford Park in Toowoomba has seen positive outcomes. RQL has given approval for the Darling Downs Harness Racing Club to conduct official trials with a view to conducting a number of TAB harness meetings at the venue.

The popular QBred breeding incentive scheme will return in the 2012/13 racing season to replace the previous RQIS program that was not well received.

The QBred scheme will cater for two, three and four year olds, providing race winning bonuses, the Triad and Breeder's Classic feature race series, and breeding bonus certificates.

To ensure assistance across the full spectrum of the industry, RQL has conducted a trial of TAB meetings on Monday. These meetings cater for the horses at the bottom end of the horse pool. This trial has seen a favorable response.

Additionally, in the 2012/13 financial year a float rebate of \$50 per unplaced horse will be paid to the respective trainers from the prizemoney.

In addition to this float rebate, to further generate interest in the Monday meetings, Mr Kevin Seymour AM has guaranteed an additional \$50 float rebate for all unplaced horses at the Monday meetings in July, September, October, November and December 2012. This support is gratefully acknowledged by the industry.

In an effort to make for more competitive racing, RQL has approved an increase in field sizes to 12 for all mobile races (except two year olds to stay at 10) at Albion Park and Gold Coast with the standing start maximum field size going to 14. Again the acceptance has been positive.

The 2011/12 Harness Racing season in Queensland was a 'changing of the guard' in many ways.

It would be the first season since 2002/03 that Blacks A Fake would not be racing. The State's leading trainer Bill Dixon since 2005/06 had passed the reins to son Grant, and the Metropolitan drivers premiership was taken out by a first time winner in Shane Graham.

However the more things changed, the more they stayed the same with Mr Feelgood trained by John McCarthy opening the Grand Circuit Season in the same way he did the previous season, by taking honors in the Queensland Pacing Championship.

John McCarthy landed a second Group One win to his season tally only weeks later when Washakie claimed his third consecutive M H Truer Memorial at Bankstown.

In another amazing season, Washakie competed in six Group One races, seven Group Two races, one Group Three and two Listed events. Along with racing in four states of Australia and winning the Be Good Johnny Sprint in 1.52.5 at his 100th race start at Albion Park, his determination, constitution and willingness for competition is a credit to the McCarthy family and all connections.

Torque In Motion joined Washakie as the only Queensland trained winner of a Group One race interstate. Torque In Motion may have had a light season, but the quality of her performances was sensational. It was a season that saw her land the Ladyship Mile and become the fastest Queensland mare on Australian soil.

While the older horses had their time to shine over the Summer months, early Autumn signaled time for the juveniles to take center stage and no star shone brighter than Majestic Mach.

"Razzle" as he is known around the stables of Grant Dixon has shown that he may well be the best juvenile pacer to emerge from Queensland in many years. In an outstanding season, perhaps his most dominant performance came in a qualifying heat of the RQIS 2YO C&G series. On a wet Gold Coast track, Majestic Mach did all the bullocking work in the run and still managed to come away for victory in 1.55.8, an astonishing time for a two year old.

In the Three Year Old age group, Wicked Style was able to reel off an electric final quarter to take out the Group One 3YO C&G RQIS Final. Three starts later and he was at it again,

finishing over the top of his rivals to take out the Group Two 3YO C&G Nursery Pace Final. While in the fillies division, Bill Crosby put his name to another big Group One when Shez No Fake made it back to back State based features when successful in the 3YO Fillies RQIS Final to go with her 2YO QBred feature win of last season.

Training highlights for the season saw Vicki Rasmussen join the group of trainers to have 100 winners for the term. The other locals on this list were John N McMullen, John McCarthy and the state's premier Trainer Grant Dixon who was in a different race to competitors with 250 plus winners in Season 11/12.

The State Driver's title again saw four centurions, Pete McMullen, Bart Cockburn who is a first time visitor to this mark and Shane Graham. Joining them was Grant Dixon again reaching the 200 mark for the sixth season in succession.

I would like to recognise the great support the Board and I have received since taking up our appointments. RQL staff, our joint venture partners such as TattsBet and Sky Channel, a myriad of contractors, the industry associations HRA and BOTRA, and the industry at large, have all been supportive and helpful. It is our pleasure to work with the Queensland harness racing industry, and we will continue to endeavor to encourage harness racing be the best it can possibly be.



Ross Bowe  
Chairman



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

During the 2011/12 season Racing and Wagering Western Australia paid out more than \$22.6 million in stakes and a further \$1.066 million in Westbred Bonus payments.

These monies were paid out across 281 meetings and 2,295 races which provided 23,087 racing opportunities for 2,063 individual horses. This gives an average number of starts per starter of 11.19.

The 23,087 starters were trained by 514 individual trainers (631 in 2011) with 52 trainers (61 in 2011) having 100 or more starters for the season and 20 (14 in 2011) having 200 or more starters for the season.

At the other end of the scale 138 trainers (127 in 2011) had less than 10 starters during the season.

A total of 285 individual drivers drove in races during the season (304 in 2011) with 48 having 100 or more drives during the season and 101 having less than 10 drives each (101 in 2011).

The Pinjarra Harness Racing Club became the second club in Western Australia to install a passing lane when that opened in June 2012.

Trainer Gary Hall Snr set a new Western Australian Stake money record for a trainer when starters from his stable earned more than \$2.55 million for the season from a total of 118 winners.

While Hall topped the money won table the State's leading trainer on a wins basis was the husband and wife partnership of Greg and Skye Bond which trained a total of 154 winners of \$1.63 million.

Morgan Woodley headed the list of six Western Australian based drivers who each passed the 100 wins in a season milestone.

Woodley's tally of 202 winners was not only a personal best but he became just the third Western Australian based driver to pass the 200 winners in a season mark.

Woodley is the youngest driver to win a State Drivers Premiership in Western Australia at 23 years and 275 days old at season's end.

In a career that began in July 2005, Woodley is poised to become the "quickest" driver to reach the 1000 wins milestone sometime in the next twelve months. Gary Hall Jnr presently holds the record with a little over 10 years and eight months for his first 1000 winners.

The record for the youngest driver to win a State or Perth Drivers Premiership in Western Australia belongs to Max Johnson. Max was 21 years and 176 days old when he won the first of his four Perth Drivers Premierships 60 years ago in the 1951/52 season.

Colin Brown, runner-up to Woodley on the State Premiership with 173 winners also set a personal best mark with his ninth century season surpassing his previous best of 165 winners in 2003/04.

Brown has moved into second place on the all-time WA Drivers list with his 2373rd winner coming at Gloucester Park on July 6th and taking him past the 2372 career wins mark of Hall Of Fame inductee Fred Kersley.

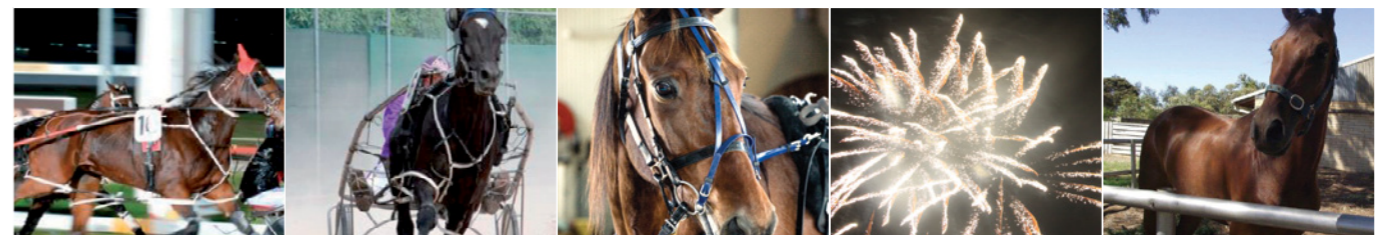
The State's best pacer Im Themightyquinn proved beyond any doubt that he is the also the nation's best with a dominant performance in the 2012 Inter Dominion Championship held at Gloucester Park in February and March.

Unbeaten throughout the championship, Im Themightyquinn became the first Western Australian horse to win two Inter Dominion titles following on from his Auckland victory in 2011. The Grand Final was his 10th Group One success and he is rapidly closing on the 13 Group One wins record of Village Kid.

The 2012 Inter Dominion Championship was the first of 76 years of the traditional format of three rounds of heats and final to produce three horses to go through the heats undefeated.

Im Themightyquinn, Auckland Reactor (New Zealand) and Smoken Up (Victoria) each won their three heats but the other pair was no match for the Western Australian champion in the final.

A total of 387 2:00 winning performances were put up by Western Australian bred horses during the season with Has The Answers reaching the 1:55 benchmark on three occasions





in times of 1:55, 1:54.5 and 1:54.4. He was one of six locally bred horses to record winning times of 1:55 or faster during the season.

The fastest Western Australian bred during the season was David Hercules 1:52.8 with the NSW trained Hurricane Dilinger and Mon Gee the next quickest with miles of 1:53.8.

The filly Arma Xpress was the standout two year old of the season winning five classics including the Group One Golden Slipper Stakes against the colts on her way to seven wins in eight starts and stakes of \$255,470.

A Western Australian bred daughter of Artiscap, Arma Xpress failed to meet her \$40,000 reserve at the 2011 WA Yearling Sale and she is raced by her breeder Jim Currie.

The WA bred Gracias Para Nada was the early favourite for the WA Derby with a series of brilliant performances including the Group Three Caduceus Club Classics however the Gary Hall Snr trained son of Mach Three found the New Zealand bred Im Victorious too strong in both the Derby and the Group Two Western Gateway Pace.

Im Victorious is trained by former Olympic Gold Medal winning Hockeyroo Michael Brennan and he finished his first racing campaign with seven wins and one second and stakes of some \$207,000.

Tragically Gracias Para Nada died shortly after the Derby following surgery at a veterinary clinic.

Sensational Gabby dominated local three year old filly ranks and finished the season with 13 wins in 16 starts including the Group One WA Oaks and State Sires Series on her way to season's earnings of more than \$247,000. Two of her three defeats, and her only career losses against fillies, came in a semi-final and final of the Australasian Breeders Crown held in Victoria in August.

The major four year races were dominated by visiting horses with the Gary Hall trained and New Zealand owned The Gold Ace winning both the Group One Golden Nugget Championship and Group Two WA 4yo Championship.

The Group One McInerney Ford Classic was won by star four year old Mustang Mach for Victorian trainer Dean Braun.



Mark Carey  
Chairman



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Strategic Plan

The Board of Harness Racing SA Ltd (HRSA) updated its Strategic Plan to progress what we believe are the key Strategic Priorities for the harness racing industry through the next five years. The Code's mission is to grow a strong and vibrant harness racing industry by developing a compelling racing product for our target markets, increasing participation, promoting racing excellence and integrity, generating revenue growth from wagering, and maximising returns to its stakeholders.

#### The five strategic priorities are as follows:

1. Consumer-Led Focus  
HRSA will develop an approach that will attract, engage and retain consumers in harness racing.
2. Revenue and Financial Sustainability  
Delivering a sustainable financial base to ensure a racing code that is commercially attractive.
3. Racing Model Optimisation  
Developing a Blueprint for 2022 which delivers a racing schedule and focuses on ensuring competitive racing, underpinned by quality race programs.
4. Venue and Racing Facilities Development  
Upgrading of the venue and racing facilities of Member Clubs, aligned to the 2022 Blueprint, will ensure continuity of racing and engage and retain both participants and consumers.
5. Increase and Improve Participation of Owners, Trainers and Breeders. HRSA will support ownership and breeding initiatives to ensure the supply of quality horses in South Australia.

### Harness Racing Funding Model

HRSA is working towards establishing an improved funding model for harness racing in SA. The current model which was established at the time of the sale of the TAB and corporatisation, is inadequate as it places emphasis on each code providing as much product into the market as possible, in order to increase market share for the following year. It also diverts expenditure away from important areas of funding for our code including prizemoney increases and investment in racing infrastructure. HRSA is leading a review of the current funding model with a revised model to be presented to Racing SA.

### Turnover and Market Share

As at 30 June 2012, turnover on SA harness racing in FY 2011/12 increased by 7.25% on the previous year. However this was offset by a reduction in national turnover

by 12.18%. Local market share for harness racing in South Australia as at 30 June 2012 was 13.33%, which was a decrease of 0.027 points on the previous year. In comparison, thoroughbred racing's market share fell by 0.426 points while greyhounds increased their share by 0.45 points.

Tuesday night race meetings at Globe Derby Park over the past 12 months contributed around \$2.2 million of total SA harness turnover. If Tuesday night racing not been conducted, our average market share at this time would be sitting around the 12.3% mark, a drop of over 1% (or in excess of \$500,000 in revenue).

### 'Chariots on Fire' Syndication

The HRSA endorsed syndication was formally launched at the Southern Cross Series two year old Final in 2012. This is an important strategic initiative to get more people involved in harness racing, and will also be extended to sporting clubs and community groups. The first syndicate has now been fully subscribed, and syndicate members include former Melbourne Cup winning Jockey, John Letts, and Radio Station 5AA sports personalities, Graham Cornes and Stephen Rowe.

### Summer Carnival - South Australian Cup

In perfect conditions, the biggest crowd at Globe Derby Park since the 2007 Inter Dominion witnessed Smoken Up win its third SA Cup at Globe Derby Park on Saturday 14 January 2012. Over 5,000 patrons attended the biggest night of racing which also featured the SA Trotters Cup and the SA Derby. Regrettably just prior to the SA Cup, the venue experienced a major electrical problem which resulted in a loss of power for just over an hour and the delay of the Cup. Our advertising, marketing and promotion of the Summer Carnival at Globe Derby Park also yielded some excellent results. The media coverage for the Summer Carnival Cup was outstanding with extensive media coverage on television, press and radio. Our advertising campaign featuring the 'Chariots on Fire' catchcry has also been very well received by the public, and featured radio advertising on 5AA and extensive press advertising in The Advertiser.

### Board Changes

There have been a number of changes to the HRSA Board over the past 12 months. Mark Carey was appointed to the Board and was later appointed as Chairman of the HRSA Board. Mr Carey is a prominent breeder and owner, a former CEO of the code and most recently a Director of Greyhound Racing SA. The HRSA Board also appointed Chris Hartwig (Finance) and Peter Marshall (Business) as Directors. The Board also farewelled the outgoing Directors; Graham Taylor, Mike Deare, Adrian Edgar and Michael Giorgio, who had all made a valuable contribution to the Board and the Code. In particular, HRSA was extremely appreciative of the work of former Chairman, Graham Taylor, and in particular

the establishment of a new strategic plan and improved governance procedures for the Board.







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