

The

September 2017

SLIDER

Official publication of Reining Australia

2017 Australian Reining Breeders Classic



Warren Backhouse and Condor Smart Play
2017 ARBC Thomas Manufacturing Open Derby Champion
Photo: Emma English

Emma English Photography

2017 Pacific Coast Reining Spectacular

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi All

A big continuing thank you to all sponsors throughout the year for supporting all of our shows, the Affiliate shows and the ribbon shows as well as the Nationals. Without our valued sponsors we have no shows at all.

Congratulations to Deb Versluis on winning the raffle to the 2017 NRHA Futurity in Oklahoma City. This is great prize and the raffle is a source of income which goes directly to our National show prize money. Thank you to all that bought tickets and supported the raffle.

As most of you are aware, our Annual General meeting is fast approaching. The date for the AGM is Saturday the 3rd of February in Sydney this year. Following the AGM is the awards presentation night. Please get along to the AGM if time permits for you.

There are a couple of portfolios to fill again this year as always. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out your nomination form and send it in along with your resume. Also you will find in your correspondence that there is a Notice of Motion form. This form is for any member who wants to put forward a motion to be discussed at the AGM.

Congratulations to Greg Peters who has now joined the ranks of the Pro riders. He takes his place alongside Rod Osborne and Mick Taylor, leading Non Pros who have recently taken the plunge into professional waters. We wish Greg and his Non Pro clients, and all trainers and their clients, every success in the coming show season.

Regards
Paul Sharp

REINING AUSTRALIA AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS



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*Cameron Halliwell and Gottagetagunner
2017 ARBC Southern Cross Saddlery Non Pro Derby Champion
Photo: Emma English*

2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC

Gita Thomas

Photos: Emma English

The Australian Reining Breeders Classic and Stockman's Challenge is in its third year of operation and is fast strengthening its claim as the show to attend for serious Reining and Challenge competitors.

The ARBC Show was held over the Easter weekend at a transformed Dalby Equestrian Center where the arena and surrounding grandstands were barely recognisable once finishing touches were complete. There is always a friendly yet competitive feeling around this show, in part due to the fact that those attending are mixing with like-minded enthusiasts. The crossover of Challenge and Reining competitors means a sharing of knowledge and mutual admiration for each other's expertise in their chosen discipline.

The support by the owners of the 27 ARBC nominated stallions shows their commitment to growing Reining and Challenge here in Australia by showcasing their progeny in the feature events, the ARBC Open Derby and the ARBC Classic Challenge.

It is exciting to see so many stallion owners and competitors engaged with the ARBC philosophy. Our mission is to promote the breeding of reining horses in Australia through the provision of a lucrative and prestigious event specifically designed for Derby year progeny of the best Australian and international reining stallions.



The advertisement collage features several images: a close-up of two horses' heads, a rider on a horse in an arena, a yellow metal gate, a rider on a horse with a cow, a rider on a horse, and a green tractor. A central logo reads "Thomas Arena PRODUCTS". At the bottom, a pink banner displays the website "www.thomasarenaproducts.com.au".

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2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC



Above: Matilda Ready and Crown K Bronzed Hank were first in Beginner Youth.



Above: Mike Adamson and Rocky River Little Roc won the Green Rider Level 1 class.



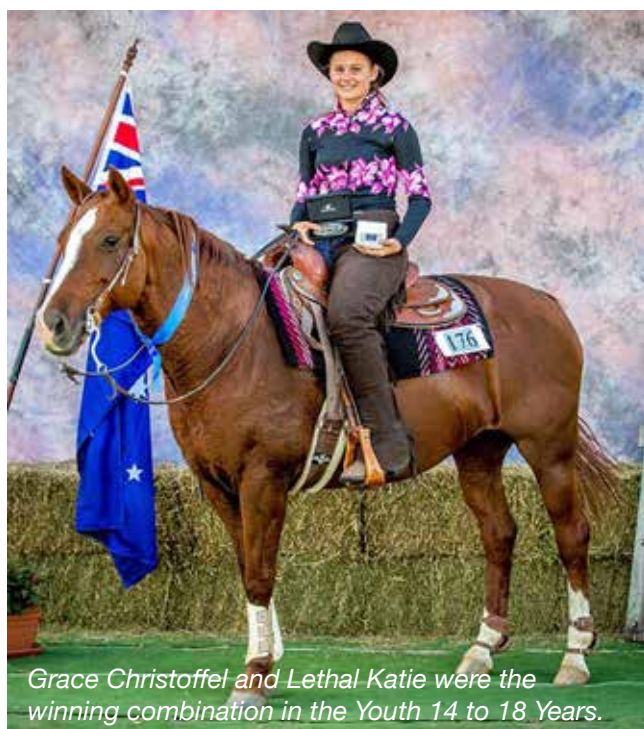
Above: Alice Baker and Onya Amberlin took out the buckle in the Youth 13 Years and Under class.



Above: Short Stirrup winner Chase Huff on Quirran Lea Spinamiss and runner-up Tobin Smart on Sonitas Calendar Girl.



Michelle Burnett and De Termination won the Intermediate Non Pro class.



Grace Christoffel and Lethal Katie were the winning combination in the Youth 14 to 18 Years.

2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC

The 4 days of showing at the ARBC attracted over 140 horse and rider combinations between Reining and Challenge competitors with more than 365 runs across the two disciplines. This year we introduced the Rookie Challenge Event and were excited to have Dan Kingsley from Kingsley Custom Saddles put up a handcrafted saddle for the Rookie Champion. We extend a warm thank you for your support Dan; it was great to have you here to present this saddle to the winner.

The exceptional prizes didn't end there. We are grateful to Kevin and Wayne from Southern Cross Saddlery for sponsoring a saddle for the ARBC Non Pro Derby Champion.

A major focus at the ARBC is to promote and thank our wonderful sponsors for their continued involvement. Their generosity makes the ARBC a must-do on everyone's Reining and Challenge calendars. Sponsorship has come from many local businesses, and we love it that trainers and competitors alike have also supported the show.

To name a few of our major sponsors: Dalby General Steel, Simplicity Coatings, Marrison Hydraulics, Xtreme Genes, Total Steel, Rural Weekly, Ian Francis, Bec Laurie for the stunning garlands and Rick Meredith for the beautifully crafted silver show bridles. The competitors make the trek to the ARBC as much for the beautiful prizes on offer as the prize money. And the payouts are growing as the ARBC moves forward, so thank you to everyone who has made this possible.

It takes the work of many helpers behind the scenes to run a big horse show: the diligent office team of Lynda Gray and Kathleen Murphy, congenial announcer Tim Hoffmann, hardworking gate marshal John Wylie, judges Darren Simpson and Jason Wordsworth and the scribe team of Kerry Hoffmann, Kerri Anderson and Kelli Ready. Alan Cooper and Errol Thomas groomed the arena to the highest standard. Their collective work makes the ARBC come alive and shine as one of the pinnacle shows on the Australian event circuit.

The ARBC program covered a full slate of reining classes starting with non-sanctioned events on Wednesday: Beginner Rider and Beginner Youth, Senior Horse and Junior Horse. Competitors in the Green Rider faced the judge after the lunch break followed by the first ancillary classes: Short Stirrup and the Youth events.

On Thursday, the Intermediate Open and Intermediate Non Pro preceded the Rookies before the Challenge riders took over the arena. The reining continued on Friday with the Novice Horse classes then the Limited Open, Limited Non Pro and Rookie Professional. Friday wrapped up with the Open, Non Pro and Prime Time Non Pro followed by the Freestyle.

The Challenge finals claimed the arena on Saturday morning. The ARBC Derby commenced after the lunch break.



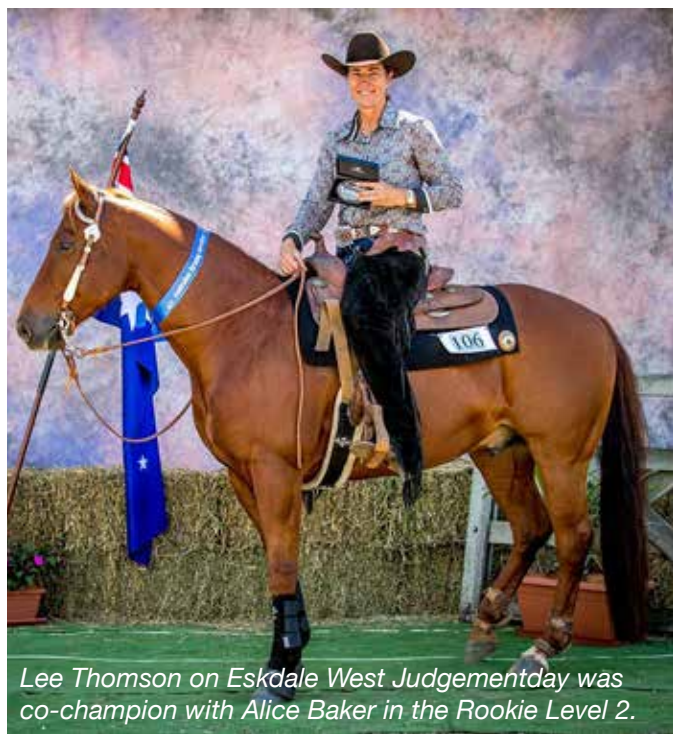
2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC



Above: Bec Laurie won the Intermediate Open on Wimpys Red Chilli.



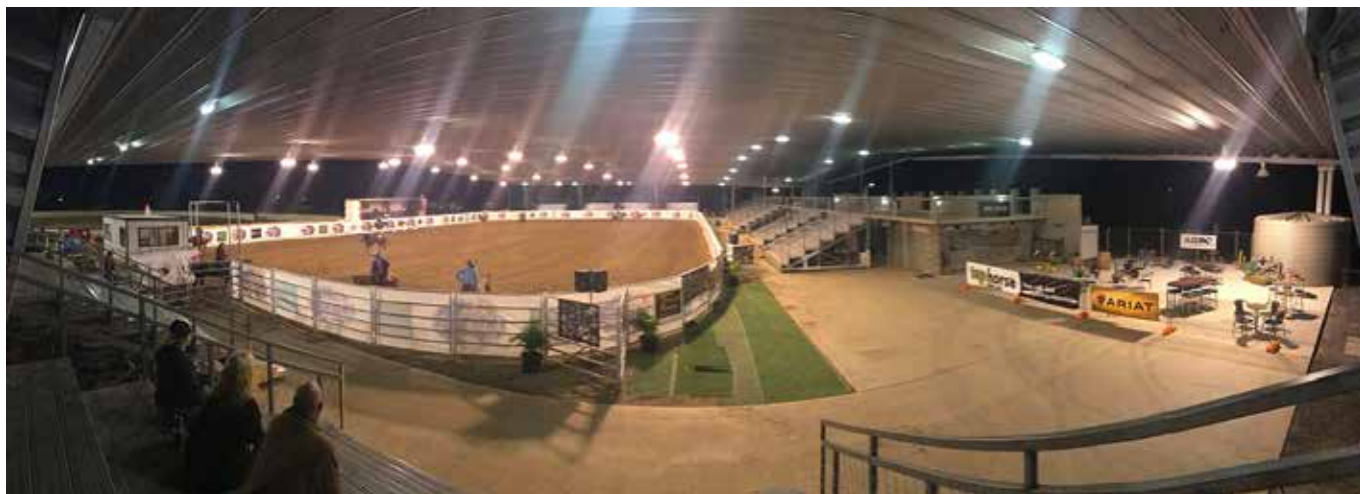
Above: Denise Milgate and RKN Two Eyed Kid won the buckles for the Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2 and the Novice Horse Open Level 2 classes.



Lee Thomson on Eskdale West Judgementday was co-champion with Alice Baker in the Rookie Level 2.



Below: Gita Thomas won the buckle for the Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1 on Nu Lil Spark.





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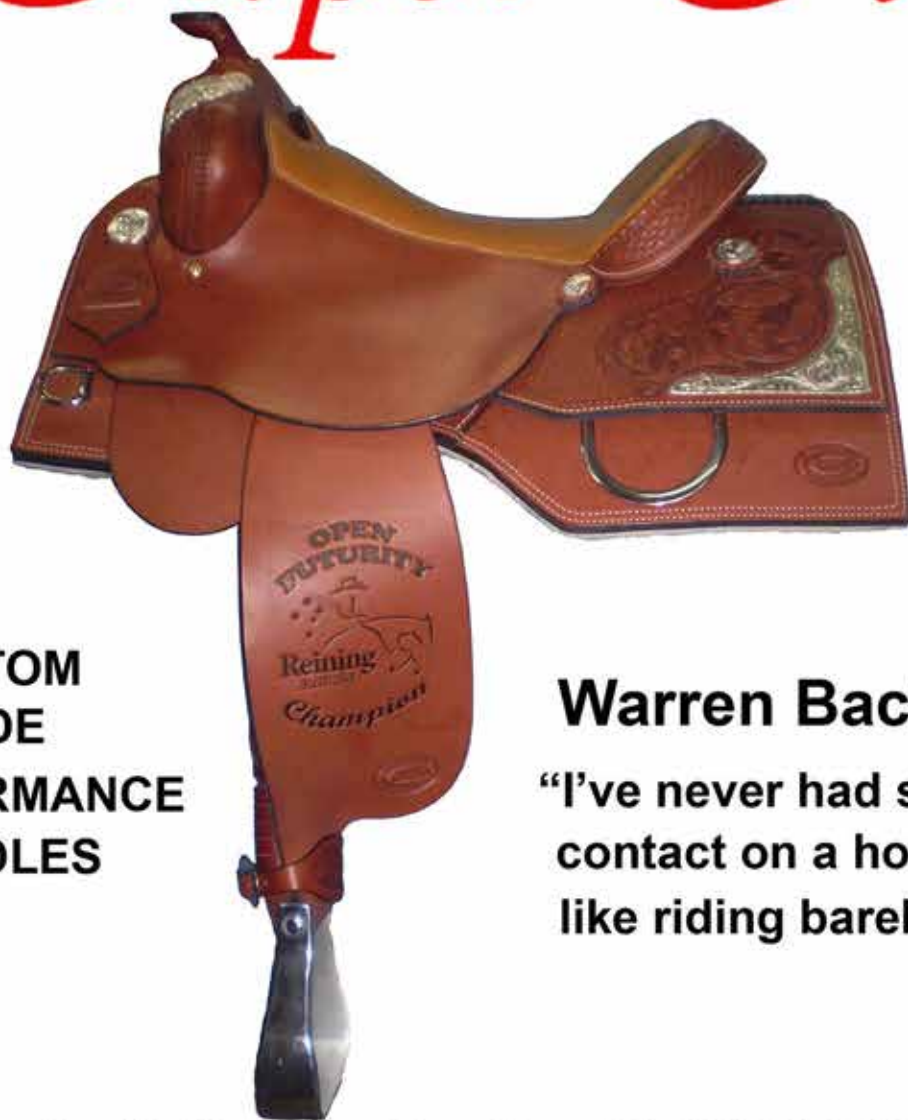


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2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC

The ARBC was streamed live around the world. On finals day we had Queensland trainer Ben Ryan in the announcer's box, along with industry legend Ian Francis, to commentate throughout the ARBC Open Derby. They enlightened the audience with information and chat on the riders, horses and the ARBC nominated stallions represented by progeny in the competition.

The Thomas Arena Products Open Derby is the feature event of the ARBC. There were 27 horses nominated in the 6 divisions of the Derby running for a total prize purse of \$29,059, with the open Derby paying down to 10th place.

The ARBC Open Derby was won by Condor Smart Play, ridden by Warren Backhouse and owned by Jason Melling, with a convincing top score of 146½. This is the second year running that Warren has presented the winner of the prestigious ARBC Open Derby title. Connections also took home the ARBC Trophy Cup, an ARBC buckle, an ARBC Rick Meredith show bridle and a garland by Bec Laurie.

Warren had this to say after winning: "I feel proud and humble to win this event two years in a row. It was an honour to ride in such a beautifully set up arena with an amazing surface meticulously prepped by Errol yet again. The lead up week to the main event put on some great weather as well as being able to catch up and ride with some great friends and competitors. Topping the week off with the win on Condor Smart Play, I need to thank Jason Melling for entrusting us with this great horse. Congratulations to all competitors, we can't wait for next year to see the great job Errol and Gita do with the ARBC program."

Voila Petit Pas, owned by Yves Cousinard and Christine Bayer and ridden by Yves, won the Intermediate and Limited divisions of the Open Derby and received ARBC buckles and a garland by Bec Laurie.

Cameron Halliwell won the ARBC Southern Cross Saddlery Non Pro Derby with his well-performed young stallion Gottagetagunner. Cameron travelled up from Victoria to win the saddle sponsored by Kevin and Wayne from Southern Cross Saddlery. Other prizes for the ARBC Non Pro Derby champion included an ARBC Trophy Cup, an ARBC buckle and Rick Meredith show bridle plus a garland by Bec Laurie.

The three divisions of the Non Pro Derby were strongly contested and we saw some awesome runs from the Non Pro competitors. Hayley Saunders took out both the Intermediate and Limited divisions of the ARBC Non Pro Derby riding her talented stud Nu Nu.

This year the ARBC introduced Maturity classes to the line-up of events. The ARBC Total Steel Open Maturity and the ARBC Xtreme Genes Non Pro Maturity were open to 4-year-old horses, running for a prize purse of \$4,188 divided between the two divisions.

The ARBC Total Steel Open Maturity champion, Wimpys Packin Heat ridden by Shaun Saunders and owned by Dianne Macarthur, convincingly won the class on a score of 143. The winner of the ARBC Xtreme Genes Non Pro Maturity with a score of 141 was Wimpys Little Terminator, ridden and owned by Cameron Halliwell.



Above: ARBC Open Challenge winner Ken May and Rosies Lethal Return, ARBC Kingsley Custom Saddles Rookie Challenge winner Peter Morris and Sinful Destiny, and ARBC Classic Challenge winner Nathan Wilson and Blondes Ace.



Above: Noel Watson and Einstein Flashy Jac were the winning combination in the Open.

2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC



Above: Michelle Burnett and De Termination won the Limited Non Pro ahead of a 3-way tie for second place. The combination also won the Limited Open class with their run.



Above: Helen Balu and Whizkey On The Rocks had the winning run for the buckle in the Non Pro class.



Above: Chris Gould and Malibu Lena won the buckle in the Rookie Professional class.

Below: Errol Thomas and Shiney Nu Addition were Prime Time Non Pro co-champions with Lisa Tietz on Jacked Up Genes.



Left: Amelia Baker rode What A Hug into first place in the Freestyle.

2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC



Kurt Melling with the buckle, Jason Melling with trophy, Hayley Saunders with the silver show bridle, Warren Backhouse with trophy and Condor Smart Play wearing his garland for winning the ARBC Open Derby.



Above: Cameron Halliwell and Gottagetagunner on their way to winning the ARBC Non Pro Derby.



Above: Greg Campbell and Matilda Ready present the buckle and garland to Yves Cousinard and Voila Petit Pas for their win in the Limited division of the Open Derby. Yves and Voila Petit Pas also won the Intermediate division of the Open Derby.



Left: Greg Campbell, John Wylie and Matilda Ready present the trophy saddle and other prizes to Cameron Halliwell for his win in the ARBC Southern Cross Saddlery Non Pro Derby on Gottagetagunner.

2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC



Hayley Saunders rode Nu Nu into first place for the buckles in the Intermediate division and Limited division of the ARBC Southern Cross Saddlery Non Pro Derby.



Above: ARBC principals Gita and Errol Thomas present Jason Melling with the prize money for his win in the ARBC Thomas Manufacturing Open Derby.



Above: Shaun Saunders won the Open Maturity on Wimpys Packin Heat.



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2017 AUSTRALIAN REINING BREEDERS CLASSIC

The Australian Reining Breeders Classic and Stockman's Challenge celebrates with its champions and competitors at the ARBC VIP dinner. Attendance at this year's event broke all previous records with a crowd of 160 sharing the excitement when the BIG cheques were presented.

The after party kicked on downstairs in the customary ARBC style with drinks and entertainment at the ARBC Saloon till the wee hours.

Errol and Gita Thomas are already planning ways to improve this prestigious event for 2018. The ARBC Derby Show and Stockman's Challenge will be held from the 4th to 7th April 2018; they look forward to welcoming you to Dalby next year.

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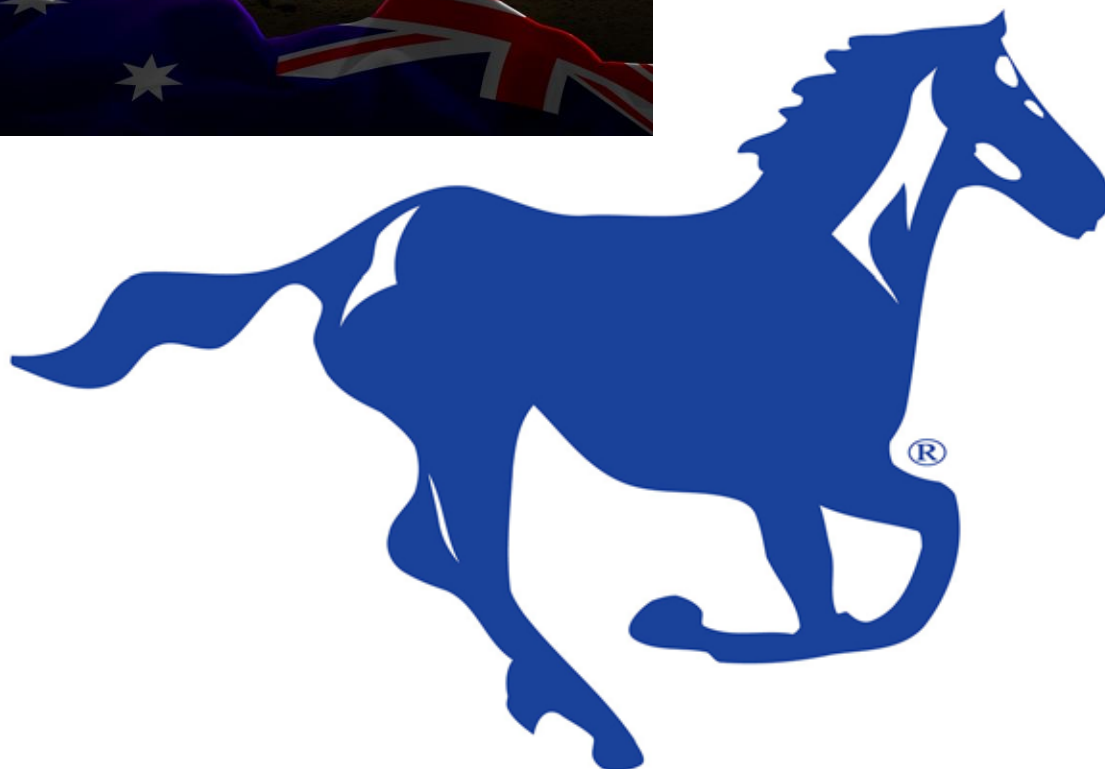
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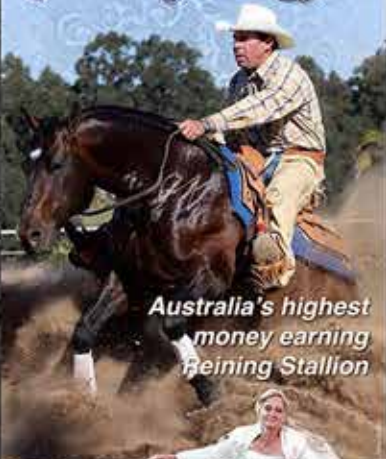


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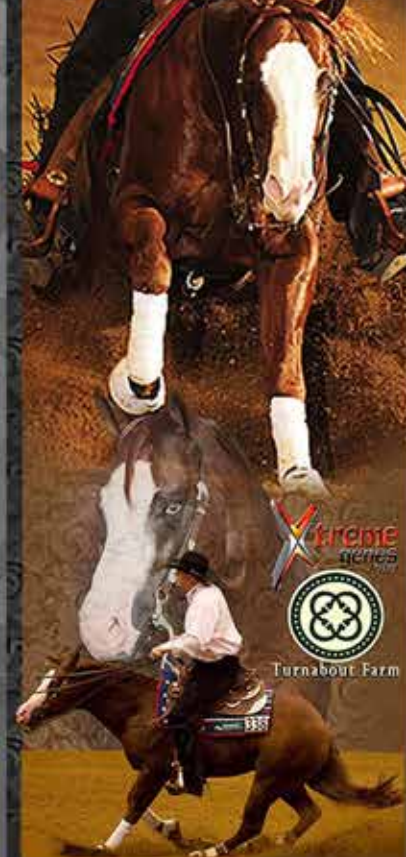
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2017 PACIFIC COAST REINING SPECTACULAR

Southern Queensland Reining Horse Association

Photos: Tania Hobbs

The 2017 Pacific Coast Reining Spectacular wrapped up on Saturday the 10th of June. With a full slate of NRHA classes and featuring the “Fantastic 5” Derby for 4, 5 and 6-year-old reining horses, the PCRS has left participants and spectators already excited for next year’s show!

A special attraction was the “Ride for a Cure” charity event; we raised \$805 for the Queensland Cancer Council.

The PCRS is one of the most prestigious events on the reining calendar for both professionals and non-pros. All standards of competitions are represented, from club-level to world-class. The show attracts people from all across the country and abroad and over 60 hours of live coverage is beamed worldwide. Reining is a rapidly growing international sport and every year the location of PCRS at Gatton with its excellent arena is a consistent step forward for reining in Australia.

SQRHA committee members are no strangers to this size of event, and provided a well-managed, hassle free show for all competitors. Horses were stabled throughout the Gatton equestrian centre and the grounds were once again at full capacity.

“Considering what has happened in the economy during the past year, we’re overwhelmed with the amount of entries,” said Chris Wales, Secretary of SQRHA. “People still want to show their reiners and we’re very excited to see the increase in the Green Rider and Non Pro levels, not only in numbers but also in the quality of competition,” said Chris.

This year was a little extra special. International Judge Eugenio Lattore and the “Fantastic 5” line up of world-class horses set the scene for an impressive show. Eugenio is an NRHA, NRCHA and FEI Reining Judge. He has judged the NRHA Futurity and Derby in the USA, and has judged at major shows in Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, Spain, Holland and Brazil. He judged at the FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010. Eugenio is on the teaching panel of the NRHA Judge’s Committee, and is involved in the FEI Reining Department.

In association with Xtreme Genes, SQRHA is thrilled to bring the equine community some of the BEST stallions in Australia and abroad! We thank our “Fantastic 5” sponsors: Lil Nu It All, Colonels Shining Gun, A Hollywood Custom, Do Me A Favour and Dun Gotta Gun.

“We couldn’t have imagined a better line up even if we dreamed it and without them, things just aren’t possible!” said Jessica Watson, President of SQRHA.

The PCRS “Fantastic 5” Derby attracts some of the best horse and rider combinations in the country and they didn’t fail to bring on the competition this year! Top riders, top non-pros, top sires and top owners were all gathered in the one venue. The stage was set, the crowd was loud and from the moment the first horse ran through the gate the atmosphere became electric.

We saw some heart stopping runs. Colonel Einstein set a cracking pace with a score of 145½ on the first run. Two hours and around 20 horses later, Condor Smart Play ridden by Jason Melling (147½) was crowned Pacific Coast Reining Spectacular Derby Champion for this year!

It’s all over including the shouting until next year. Jessica Watson, President of SQRHA couldn’t be happier. “The sponsorship and support was overwhelming. I would like to thank all the committee, sponsors, helpers and competitors. Without you we would not be able to make this such a successful show. Congratulations also to the winners, place getters and competitors who achieved new personal best scores and first time buckles, well done. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year.”



Right: Heather Lee and Avenlee Dualling Thunder.

2017 PACIFIC COAST REINING SPECTACULAR



Above: Sydney Paech and Onya Wozza won the Rookie Level 1 class.



Above: Jessica Watson rode Einstein Flashy Jac into first place in the Ride for a Cure.



Above: Denise Milgate won the Open on RKN Two Eyed Kid.



Above: Noel Watson and Snippin Cash won the buckle in the Novice Horse Open Level 2 class.



David Nixon rode Classic Genetics into first place in the Limited division of the Open Futurity.



Above: Grace Christoffel and Lethal Katie were winners of the Youth 14 to 18 Years class.



Kyley Norman and Shiney Is My Name.



Neville Connelly and Do Me A Favour.

2017 PACIFIC COAST REINING SPECTACULAR



Above: Dennis Neylon and Wimpys Lil Miss, reserve in the Limited division of the Non Pro Derby.



Above: Hayley Saunders and Nu Nu filled the reserve positions in the Non Pro Derby and Intermediate division of the Non Pro Derby. They took home the buckle in the Limited division.



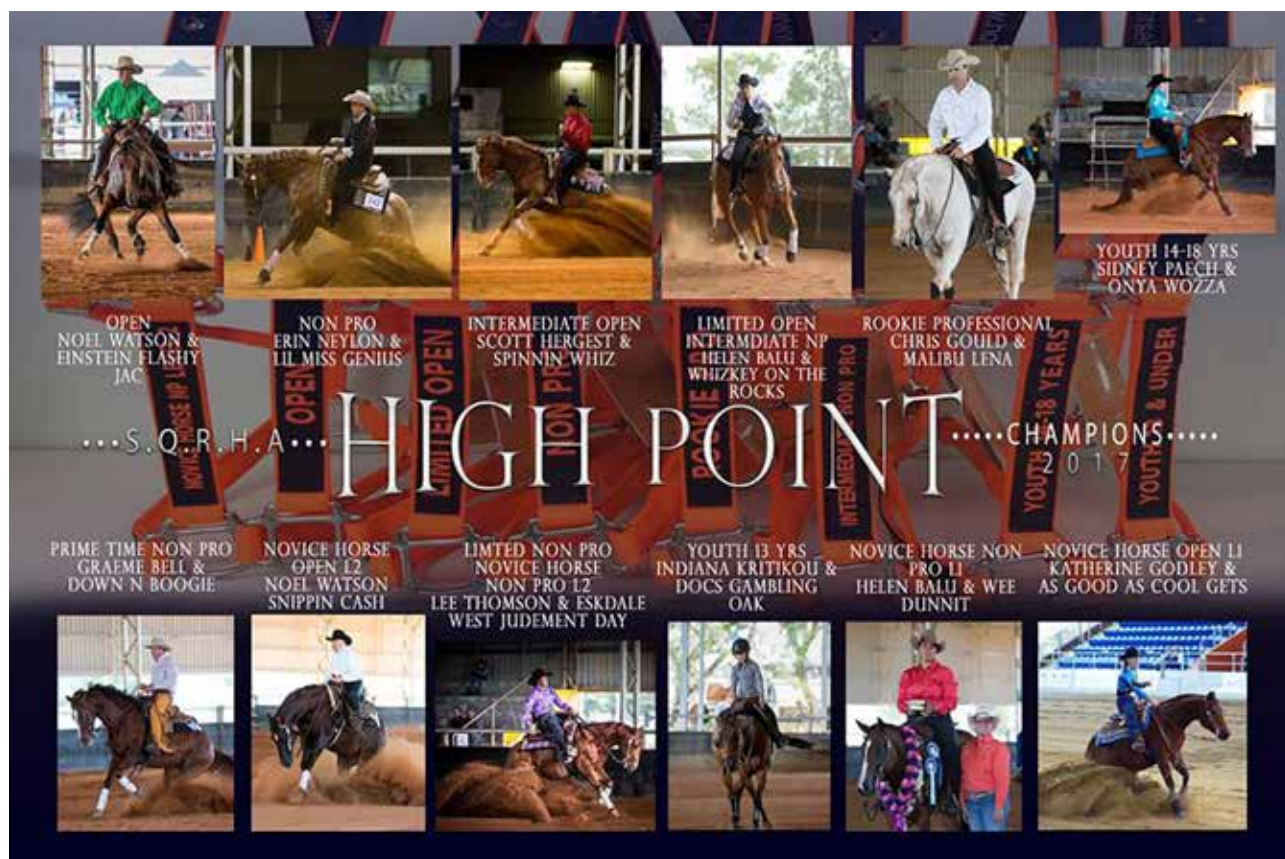
Jason Melling and Condor Smart Play made a clean sweep of their Derby classes, winning the Non Pro Derby, Intermediate division of the Non Pro Derby, and all divisions of the Open Derby. The combination also won the buckle in the Non Pro.



The Southern Queensland Reining Horse Association is dedicated to promoting and encouraging the development and public interest in the sport of reining. Our focus on encouraging beginners to the sport hosts a fun filled, family-oriented atmosphere.

SQRHA holds all its shows at the Lockyer Indoor Equestrian Centre in Gatton on the first weekend of every month, and provides a forum for exhibitors, breeders and anyone interested in this great sport.

NEWS FROM SQRHA



REINING AUSTRALIA YOUTH

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Reining Australia Youth Partnership Program is open to all Youth members. This includes non-riding and non-competing Youth who are encouraged to participate.

The Youth Partnership Program is a program developed to encourage Youth to become more involved with the running of shows. A Youth who volunteers to help at shows will earn points and credits towards annual prizes and awards.

Prizes will include Reining Australia merchandise as well as benefits like help with the cost of stabling at the Nationals.

Reining Australia knows that some Youth attend more shows than others and that some Youth have better opportunities to help. The quality and not just the quantity of your help, and praise from the committee, are very important. Special awards and commendations will be made for any outstanding efforts.



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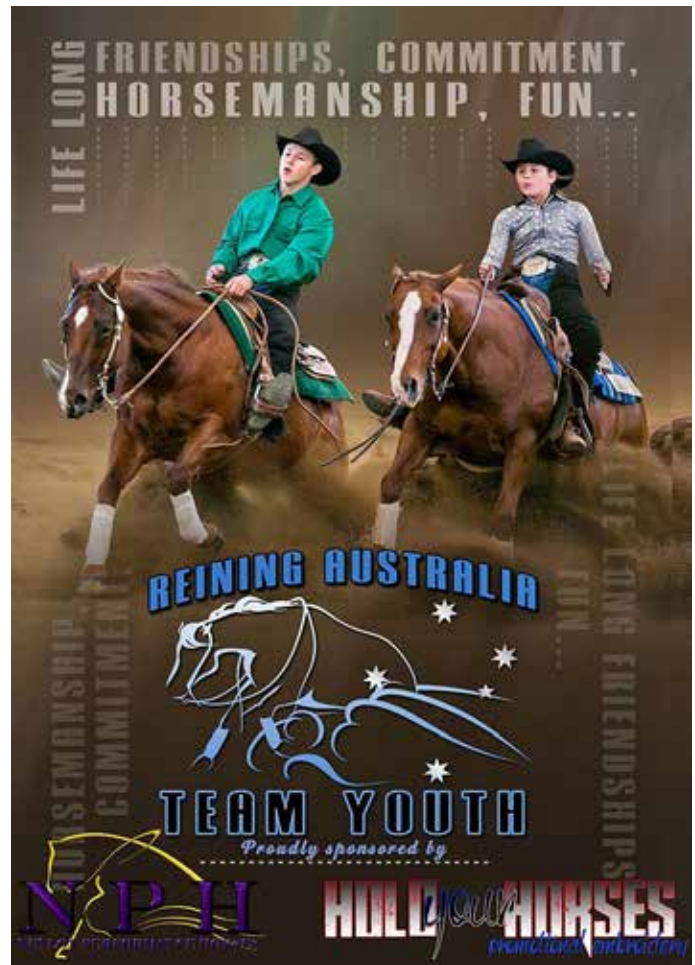
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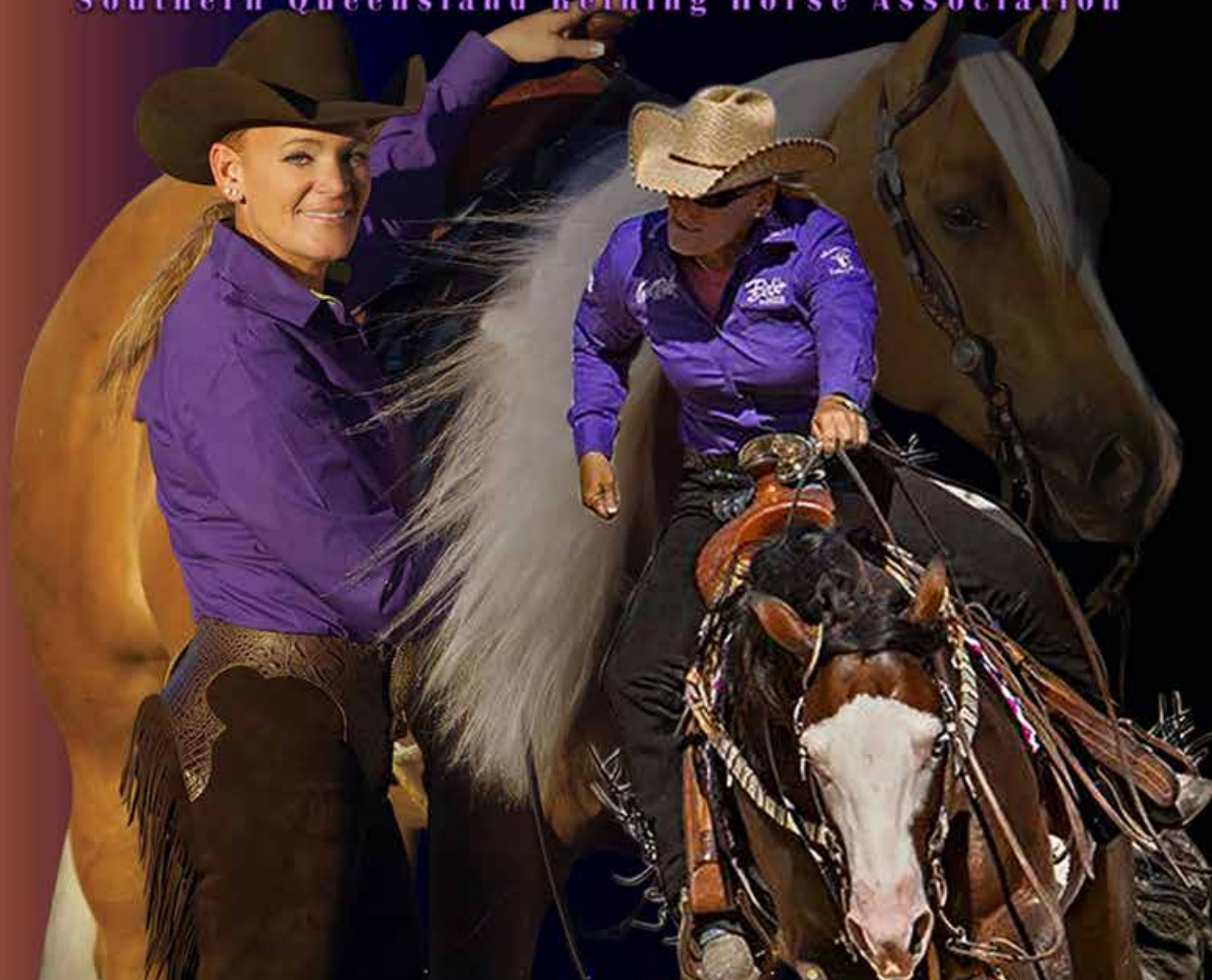
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PARA REINING NEWS

2017 WORLD PARA REINING INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Heather Smith

Adapted from *The Reiner* August 2017

Photos: Troullioud Fotografie

The 2017 WPR International Para Reining Championships were held in Ermelo, The Netherlands, at the beginning of July. The Diamond League Western (DLW) graciously hosted the Championships during their western show at the KNHS Centrum.

There were 19 riders in 7 teams from 6 countries vying for spots on the podium in the Team Competition and the Individual Competition. The riding was fierce, the talent was deep and camaraderie amongst the riders was magnificent.

Para-reiners had the opportunity to work with Lisa Coulter, a founder of WPR, during clinics held on July 4 and 5. During these clinics, riders with all types of disabilities were seen with their own equine partners, or with horses leased through the generosity of owners.

Riders and supporters came together at the draw party on July 5. The NRHA generously hosted the party for an evening of kinship and celebration. NRHA Board of Directors and NRHA European Executive Committee member Paulus Beurskens told the riders to work hard, but to have fun riding.

The Team Competition, held on July 6, consisted of 7 teams: Canada, United Kingdom, USA, The Netherlands, Germany 1, Germany 2 and Belgium. This nail-biter came down to the last rider before the gold, silver and bronze medals could be awarded.

The gold was captured by Team Canada, the talented duo of Janice Boucher and Lauren Barwick. The United Kingdom— Fiona Durston, Ricky Balshaw and Sir Lee Pearson—took home the silver medal. The bronze was secured by Team Belgium made up of Wout Gooskens and Julie Olson. A half point behind, Team USA and Team Germany 1, landed fourth. Team Netherlands came in fifth and Team Germany 2 came in sixth.

The Individual Competition was held on July 8, and was another exciting day. The spectators forgot that the riders were all confronted with some sort of physical challenge while in the saddle.



WORLD PARA REINING

Changed by chance. Champions by choice.



2017 WORLD PARA REINING INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Above: Team Canada.



Above: Draw party sponsored by NRHA.

Janice Boucher of Canada earned the prestigious gold medal with her catch ride, Jacs Golden Freckles, owned by Nicole Finkler. “Winning two gold medals was emotional and I was proud to be representing Canada. WPRs slogan ‘Changed by Chance, Champions by Choice’ is something I live by. Just because you have a disability doesn’t mean that you have to stop everything.

You need to keep going and realize that there are other doors that will open and other people that can help. WPR has opened doors for me. Thank you, WPR,” Boucher said. Boucher also took home an engraved leather binder provided for the highest scoring rider by the AmQHA.



Above: Julie Olson.

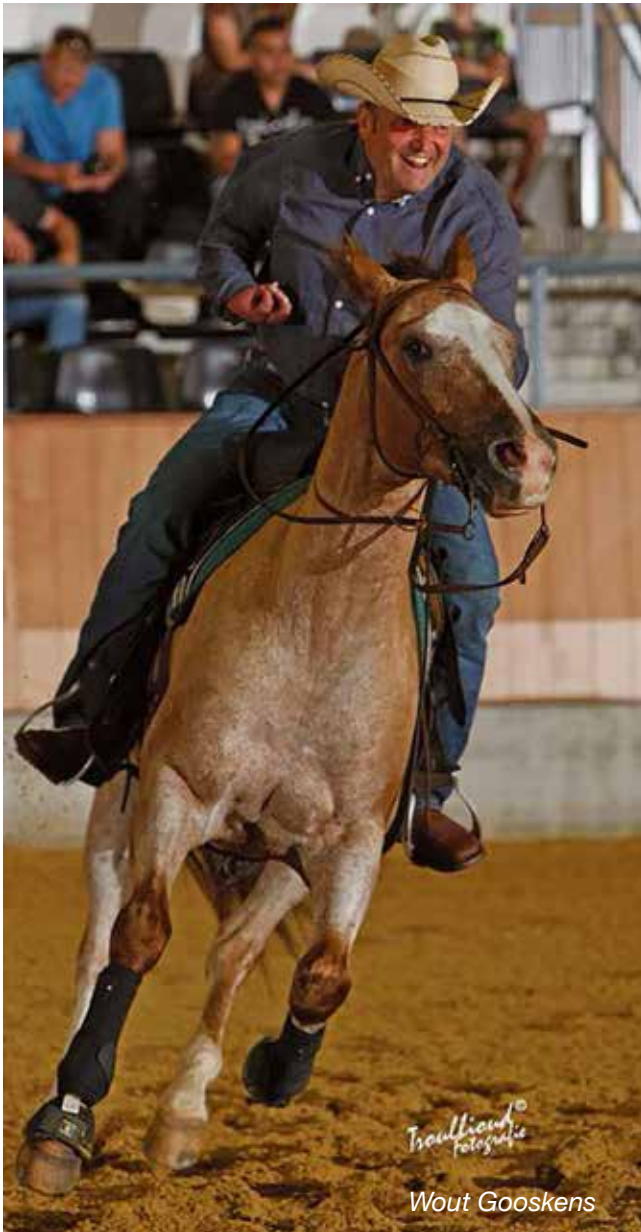
Sliding into the silver medal was Stefanie Schulz of Germany, riding Stylish Spook. Wout Gooskens of Belgium brought home the bronze, riding his own Little Lenas Diamonds. Heather Smith of the USA riding Fiftys Playboy owned by Werner van de Berg came in fourth by just a half point.

The United Kingdom swept the next 3 spots with Sir Lee Pearson in fifth, Fiona Durston in sixth and Ricky Balshaw in seventh. Briana Bartlett of the USA took eighth place, followed by Josephine Güttler of Germany in ninth. Rounding out the top ten was JoDee Lochner of the USA.

2017 WORLD PARA REINING INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lisa Coulter of WPR said, "The 2017 Championships were a huge success and I know the future is very promising for the sport of Para Reining." The Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) was present to observe the competition. FEI reining committee chair, Bob Thompson, lent a hand keeping track of the team and individual scores for the spectators.

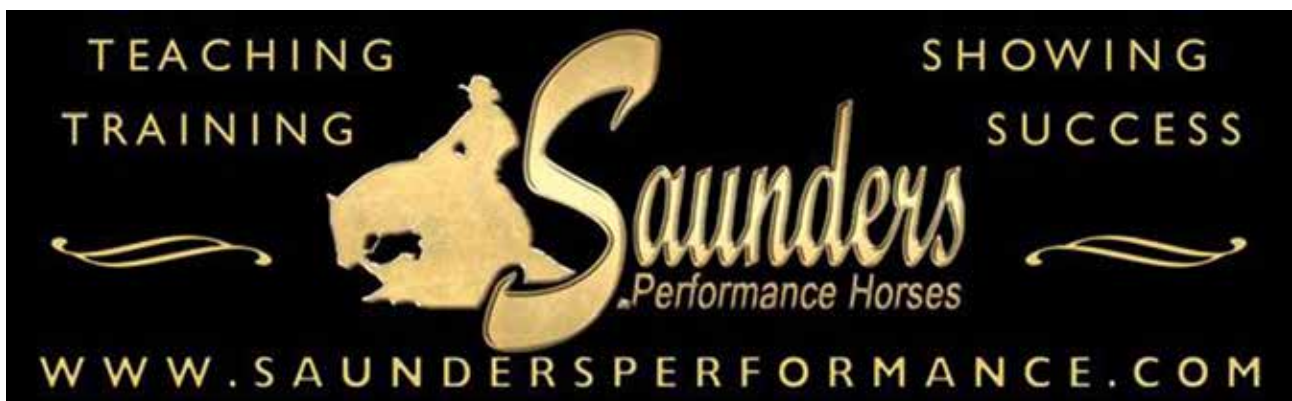
World Para Reining hopes to see continued international growth in Para Reining and many more opportunities in 2018.



Wout Gooskens



Fiona Durston





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WEG 2018 NEWS

Kathleen Murphy
RA Board WEG/FEI Portfolio

CRITERIA FOR WEG QUALIFICATION

QUALIFICATION PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2017 TO ABOUT AUGUST 2018 (TBC)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (ART. 303 REINING RULES)

To be eligible to compete either as a member of a team or as an individual at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games, an Athlete must be qualified as FEI 3* Athlete (Art. 302.5.1) and achieve a minimum average score of 70 at two out of three different CRI3* (Championships excluded) during the qualification period.

One of the qualifying results as defined above must be achieved no earlier than on the 1st January 2018 and no later than the end date of the qualification period.

Nations who enter a Team must have organized a CRI of any level or a Reining Championship in their home country during the qualification period. It is not compulsory for the Team members to have participated in this CRI/CH.

Each NF may enter one team of four Athletes and Horses and one additional Individual Athlete and Horse.

An NF that is not able to send a team may send up to two individual Athletes and two Horses who have achieved the minimum qualification criteria as stated above.

Reining Australia will be running one independent CRI3* Reining event at QSEC on 14 April 2018.

So far, a number of US-based riders have expressed interest in qualifying for selection for the WEG 2018 Australian Reining Team. These riders will fulfill their qualification requirements in the US.

CRI3* IN AUSTRALIA: QSEC 14 APRIL 2018

Reining Australia will be running an independent CRI3* event at QSEC on 14th April 2018. The judge will be FEI 3* judge Leanne Bartlett.

QRHA is hosting the CRI3* and Reining Australia will be working with the Affiliate to promote the show to RA members and the general equestrian public.





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A. GENERAL

To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of/ or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. After deducting all faults, set here within, against execution of the pattern and the horse's overall performance, credit should be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes him more exciting and pleasing to watch to an audience.

A CASE FOR CONFIDENCE

Wendy Lind

Adapted from *The Reiner* August 2017

Photos: Waltenberry

Confidence is key to a successful show horse. Easier said than done, however, because there's a lot of gray area between asking a horse for a higher level of performance, and simply overdoing it.

Washington NRHA Professional Jordan McBurney knows this first hand. When asked for a key element in her increasing success, she said learning how to cultivate a sense of confidence—both in her horse and herself—has been instrumental.

“Having your horse confident before you go show is so important,” she said, noting the direct connection to being realistic about a horse's strengths. “Every horse has abilities and limitations, so I try to find their strengths and then capitalize on them.

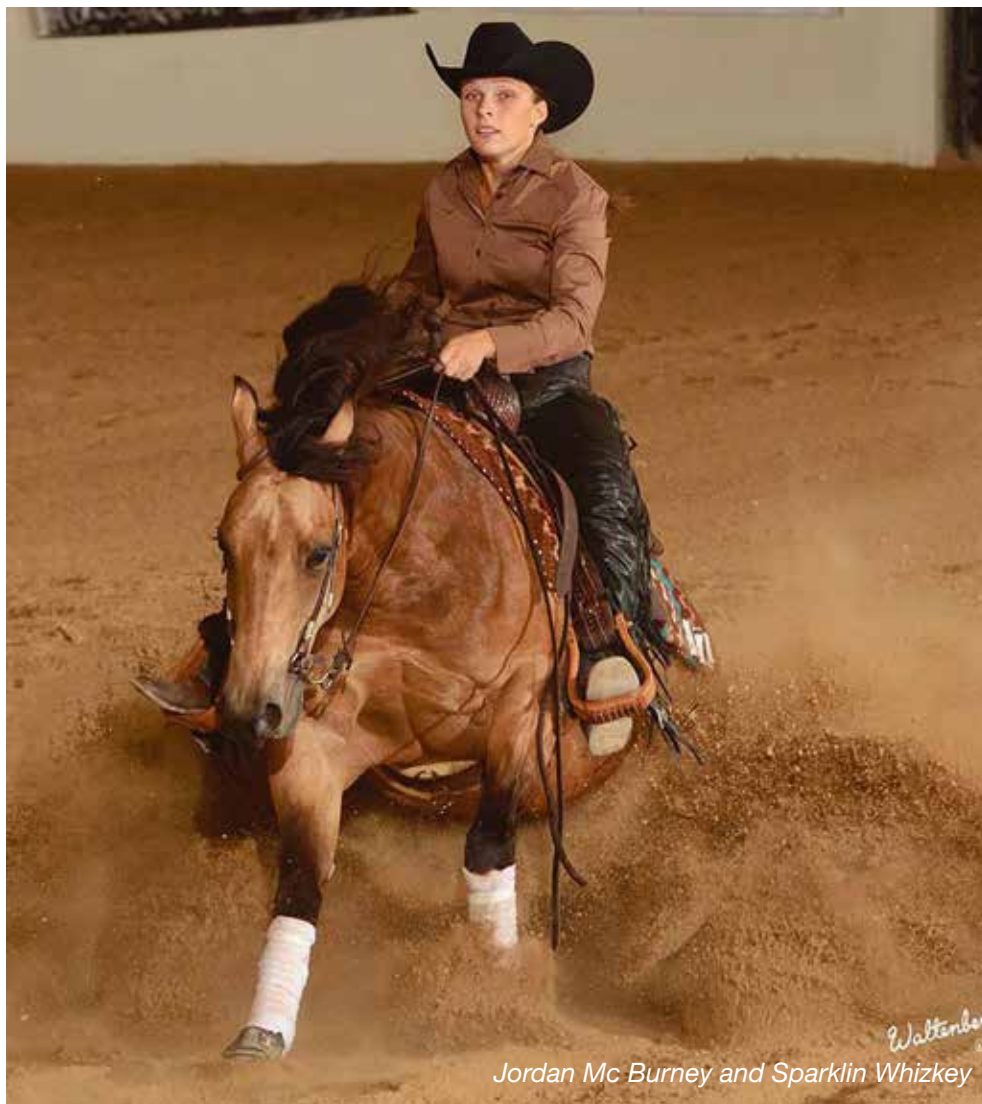
Often, we get to a horse show, and see people running and stopping full bore. It's easy to get intimidated by watching those +1 stoppers, but what you might not see is that horse's other maneuvers. Maybe that same horse can only turn a 0, but its trainer is pushing it to turn a +1/2. Then it goes in and turns a -1/2 because it was nervous about that maneuver.”

A confident 0 score for that horse would have been preferable to a frenetic turnaround that earned a -1/2. That process of building a confident reining horse from first ride to consistent show runs is a continual, always redirecting, process.



Jordan Mc Burney and Gibsons Finest

A CASE FOR CONFIDENCE



Jordan Mc Burney and Sparklin Whiskey



A CASE FOR CONFIDENCE

Without a doubt, there are going to be times in any horse's training progress in which things fall apart, and Jordan is always looking for red flags that she needs to back off. Indicators can take shape in a lot of different ways, such as a horse jumping into the stop too hard, instead of folding into the ground as it normally does. Or a horse grabs an extra gear too quickly in the rundown, or launches into a turnaround instead of quietly stepping into it.

"When a horse gets uptight, I go back and slow everything down and break things down to simple parts so they realize that they do know what they are supposed to do and that they can be confident about it. They start to realize that they don't have to turn fast or turn hard every time, which keeps them relaxed about it," she said. "I'm constantly pushing to see where their abilities are, and if the pieces fall apart, then I go back and put them together."

She used the rundown as an example. If she's having trouble getting to the stop, she breaks out each fundamental of the maneuver, first dropping down in speed and making sure the horse is running straight. Once the horse is performing well at that level, she builds the speed back up until she finds the spot that she's getting resistance.

"Then I evaluate the situation as to whether I need to change how I'm riding the horse, or is it something the horse needs to work though," she said. "I think that's one of the hardest parts of training; being confident in what you are doing, and acknowledging the level of ability for each horse. If a horse can only run and stop at +1/2 speed, but it's really good at that level, it's best to stay there instead of trying to push it to the +1 level and having it fall apart."

In cases such as that, Jordan said being satisfied with good enough can win a lot of checks. "A lot of people think that a horse has to do a +1 maneuver all the time, when they really don't. If you can get a +1 in a couple areas and a lot of solid +1/2's, it can really pay off," she pointed out.

"If you get to a show and start trying to train for more instead of staying solid on what you have, it's easy to get your horse too tired to perform their best."

Jordan trains and shows a lot of mares, and has learned the importance of not overdoing things. "Mares can take things really personally, and I don't think you can push on them quite as hard as you can

on a stud," she explained. "But I like showing the mares because I find that when you get a good one, they try a lot harder."

She especially focuses on keeping the mares confident going into a show, actually pushing them harder at home so that she can slightly back off the intensity level at shows.

"The night before I show, I ask for a little more and check out each maneuver. But when I'm warming up to show, I don't overdo things with the mares so that when I walk into the show pen I have a horse that has enough energy and confidence," she said. "Confidence is so important with mares because if you do something wrong, they remember it. Sometimes you have to go back, apologize, and make sure they understand what you wanted before you go forward again."

"One of the hardest things to learn is to not practice harder when things fall apart at a show. That's why I try to practice harder at home so that I can find out what they're capable of, and what I'm capable of when I'm on them. Then at the horse show, I don't push past that because if you lose your confidence before you go in the show pen, it won't work. You have to look confident out there for the judges to mark you."

Part of that confidence as a trainer is accepting the fact that some horses are going to take longer than others to develop into their best. "Some horses aren't going to peak until they are five. Just because they didn't win every 3-year-old event doesn't mean that they don't have those upper skills on them," she said. "With some horses, it's not so much about making big changes, but just having the confidence to keep working on the horse, and knowing that it might take a while, but they will get there."

While Jordan said while her confidence level, and effectiveness at training horses, is exponentially expanding, she was quick to point out the importance of learning new skills.

"I want to be confident, but that doesn't mean that I don't accept someone else's opinion to make sure I'm on the right track," she said. "Reining is too competitive to not keep pushing to get better."

Left: Jordan McBurney aboard Starlite Whiz who earned her the Rookie Professional, Limited Open, Intermediate Open and Open High Point titles. The duo also took home the Limited and Intermediate Open Maturity Championships.



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