



The Show Horse Council Of Australasia proudly presented The **GALLERY EQUINE** Grand National Championships” at SIEC Equestrian Centre from 26th to 29th March 2015. The Event again lifting Show Horse competition to another level. SHC members all over Australia spent the year chasing the win to qualify them to compete; the best of the best then coming together to compete for the coveted titles on offer.

Under the direction of our International Judges who arrive with no preconceived ideas, every horse and rider combination has the opportunity to show their best work in what was the most spectacular arena to showcase their horses. As a committee we try to give them the best possible experience at the event, and I think we achieve that.

This year we based our theming on a French Garden, Anna King transforming the blank canvas into a three dimensional garden. As everything started to go into the arena the excitement grew, I cannot thank Anna and Steve enough for working with the Show Horse Council, they deliver exceptional designs of excellence.

2015 saw the Grand Champions classes on Saturday night, the culmination of three days of competition; the introduction of the Children’s Grand Champion at the completion of Sundays Children’s Day brought another dimension to that competition.

This year our three lady Judges visited from the UK; Lucy Killingbeck & Bridget Ensten returned after having judged for the SHC at the 2007 Show held to replace the Grand National when Equine Influenza intervened. For Lucinda Haines it was her first visit to Australia. All Judges were very impressed with the high standard of competition, being very complementary to the capabilities of our child riders and the level of presentation of our horses. Their highlight was the Saturday evening Grand Champion events, they also really enjoyed the Shetland Class.

The “Night of Stars” was how we promoted it, and WOW but did the horses and riders deliver for us. Everyone was on such a high, huge congratulations go to all competitors who won through and put on such a show for the crowd that filled the stands at SIEC. The three winners of the Grand Champions –Rebecca Crane “France” (Show Hunter), The Morelli Family & J Prestwidge “Allambie Park First Impression’s (Saddle Horse)”and the crowd favourite 8 year old Elizabeth Taylor, the Grand Champion Rider, all delivered a polished workout to be awarded their Titles.

The Grand Champion winners take home cash, prizes, and special memories that they will have with them forever. Thanks must also go to these great sponsors The Harcourt, McNamara Families & HM Garlands, Horses In Action Competitors Assoc South Australia, and new sponsor MG Bridles, Norris & Mitchell-Ashwin families who put their financial support behind these Grand Champion classes.



GRAND CHAMPION SADDLE HORSE : Allambie Park First Impressions Morelli Family & J Prestwidge

This year we again held Children's day on Sunday. Entries for these events were excellent, continuing to grow and offering our junior members a special day, just for them. After three days of other events, competitors were still very eager at 8.00am on Sunday presenting for a full day of events. Classes were strongly supported and many happy smiling faces left the arena with beautiful rainbow ribbons, twinkling garlands and their purple rugs.

This event relies heavily upon the support of our event sponsors, The SHC is extremely fortunate to have Gallery Equine and our individual class sponsors who are very loyal to us, and continue to sponsor this event. I cannot thank them enough for coming along for the ride every year. This year HM Garlands, (Philippa Harcourt) became involved with the Grand National supplying the most exquisite Garlands for both our winning Horse and Rider Classes. Each piece was an individual work of art, adorned in special jewels, these garlands are the most special treasure for the lucky winners to have as a keepsake of their win.

Results will be sent out to all sponsors, I have already received many positive emails from both business and personal sponsors as well as competitors, it is a testament to all the hard work the committee and individual helpers put in to make the 2015 event such a success.

The Announcing team of Chris King, Lori Howell & Sheridan never missed a beat over the four long days & nights.

The Council employed the services of LHMTV to live stream the four days of competition, this proved to be a welcome addition by people who were not able to attend the event, over 50,000 people viewed the Championships, allowing exhibitors family and friends the opportunity to take in the atmosphere and see the results as they happen from their living rooms. Jeremy Roberts as commentator for LHMTV, interviewed many experienced Show Horse Industry figures, this giving an insight into the action taking place on the arena.

It was wonderful that we had many of the States supply people to help us in an official capacity, their assistance was invaluable. Greg Trembath as chief measurer arrived on Tuesday and with assistant Greg Crocker's (SA), Joe Charnock (NSW), Miranda Kerr (VIC), Leonie Kirkhope & Linda from (TASI) measured about 100 horses. Helen Kirton was very busy escorting horses down to be drug tested with 29 horses were tested over four days.

Sandra James ran the BBQ on Wednesday night and collected the money. The South Australian contingent diced, chopped and served; Bruce Flood did the shopping assisted by Helen Kirton with the meat order. This night is always well received by competitors prior to the start of completion on Thursday, and is a great time to catch up and socialise in a relaxed environment.

The Show office is always a busy hub of activity, and was very ably maned by Roseanne Bowermann (who worked with me at SIEC from the Monday before the event) and Roma Stonestreet, who in my absence were the faces that dealt with all the competitors needs prior to getting into the classes. The Sams family were invaluable from beginning to end & afterwards, still pulling down when everyone else had long gone.

Leanne McDowall and Sandra James spent a lot of time assisting in the stabling office. The new Bump in/bump out system was introduced and proved to be very effective for competitors and SHC. The marshalling this year was very efficient under the direction of Jo Maunder who spent four days directing competitors; she was assisted by Marshalls Tony Norris, Mark Leslie, Vernon Weller & Steve Benton. This is such a vital area, with these guys on their feet the whole time, out in the rain and heat, dealing with some challenging situations, trying to keep to the tight timetable.

Once they entered the arena John Paget (Assistant Ringmaster) Jamie Bell, Geraldine Crocker were joined by Ashley Roberts and Tim Hadlow in stewarding for the Judges over the 35 events, all done under the watchful eye of our Ring Master Bruce Flood who co-ordinated everybody to ensure the smooth running from ring control.

Nicole Morrison joined us from VIC as event time keeper, along with Lisa Cleary & Jordan McDowall from Mackay, Nicola Donoghue was our chief ribbon & Prize steward, sorting out many of the wonderful prizes the competitors took home as keep sakes from the Grand National. Linda from Tassie also worked in the ring, as well as supplying constant supplies of tea and coffee to keep everybody firing. Suz Worsley SWD Images & Lorelle Mercer Photography were on hand throughout to capture the magic moments & Scott Williams Productions captured all Classes on DVD .



Aerialists
Silk Performance
Entertained during the Dinner Break

The Saturday night Dinner had a record 180 guests to be seated, the area looked very inviting and I received some lovely comments from guests as they arrived. To think the busy little team put it together in a few hours is a feat to be proud of. I must say the best thing is to have happy, positive people around you, it's great to have a bit of a laugh and that keeps you going when you start to feel a bit flat.

The 2014 SHC Volunteer Awards went to Nicola Donoghue Winner, Amanda Peters 2nd, Greg Trembath & Roma Stonestreet equal 3rd tallied by most days attended as volunteer at four different events. All our volunteers are much appreciated for their support at SHC events.

The Grand National is a massive undertaking, getting bigger and I hope better every year, to become the most recognised Show Horse event in the Southern Hemisphere, without the help of the people mentioned above from SA, VIC, QLD Hawkesbury & Hills, Central Coast & Lower Hunter & the Tablelands Clubs in NSW I could never make all my own plans and dreams for this event happen.

Personally I hope all members have a wonderful experience competing, that sponsors are proud to have their name associated with the event and the Show Horse Council continues to grow & thrives with horse owners who want to qualify to compete at THE GRAND NATIONAL.

Leonie Roberts- Show Secretary.