



## 2018 NSW HORSE OF THE YEAR REPORT.

The Show Horse Council Of Australasia conducted its State Horse of The Year and Grand National qualifier on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of October at Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon, over 320 horses and 120 Riders entered this year.

After having NO RAIN in NSW for months, the drought broke! it decided to let it all go over 2 days, with Richmond receiving the highest rain fall in the state over Thursday and Friday, under the difficult circumstances we were very lucky that the grounds stood up exceptionally well and no accidents happened with horses feeling fresh in very wet and cold conditions.

Thursdays events Newcomers, Preliminary, Amateur owners and the GN Qualifying classes for Young Horses and the Children's classes were held in trying conditions. Classes were well represented in quality and numbers with the children's classes being very strong; congratulations to those winning their Gold tickets and qualifying for the 2019 GN event.

The two Leading Rein classes held at the conclusion of Thursdays events when the rain really decided to set in, the committee deciding to marshal and keep the children and the ponies in the spectators tent to try to keep them a bit dryer, we still had good numbers in both classes, it's always lovely to see the littlest riders piloting around these sweet little ponies.

Grand National qualifying classes followed with good numbers on Friday, with both the Ponies and Riding classes being hotly contested for the Horse or Rider of The Year titles. This format seemed to be very successful finishing the days judging without being rushed and in good time to allow competitors and Judges to return home. Saturdays numbers were reduced in the Galloways & Hacks as some competitors chose to stay home and keep dry after two wet days, we were lucky it didn't rain all day, but I think the weather man forgot to put the dial to Spring.

Each competitor in the horse classes were given an individual work out, emulating the conditions the horses would face should they compete at the Grand National. The Judges expressed the standard of Horses & Riders was extremely high which showed as final results in several classes being very close. Four judges officiated for the show- Mrs Susy Stewart (Vic), Mrs Catherine Gale (SA), Mrs Charlotte Hunt (SA ), & Mr Warren Coyle (VIC ), all working very hard over three very long & full days of events, the four judges cut a very elegant figure out in the arena having gone to so much trouble to dress for the occasion and then having to hide under their drizabone. The Show Horse Council thanks them for giving up their weekend to spend with us, and for being such good sports.



Sincere thanks must go to our Major Sponsor WADE EQUINE COACHES, the leaders in unsurpassed quality for horse transport in Australia and New Zealand. The Council also have loyal class sponsors whom donate in many ways to offer great Class winner prizes and products. Without this very generous sponsorship from businesses and individuals the SHC could not run such great events for all our members. I think everyone will agree the Garlands, Rugs & Ribbon combinations looked beautiful and bright on such dull and dreary days.

The show is run by a dedicated committee who work tirelessly to deliver this event. Many people giving up three days to ensure the smooth running of the event. My personal thanks go to Jamie Donato, Karen Pet, Bev Hall, Kerry Patchett, Ashley Cooper, Julie Butler, Robyn Bland and Amanda Peters for both stewarding and assisting with event presentations. Roseanne Bowerman ensured the results were displayed quickly and accurately and offering me so much support and assistance. Demi Sams who did an amazing job out in the marshalling arena over three very long days, along with Roseanne Bowerman, Steve Benton, Rob Fuller. Joe Charnock, Helen Kirton, Robyn Bland and Alan Henry were very busy measuring & Helen Kirton also conducted the drug testing, Amanda Peters was on timing of classes.

We welcomed for the first time Dannielle Robinson who stepped into the Announcers role at the last minute. Dannielle kept the days running smoothly, keeping everybody informed with up to date with information and results. Thank you so much for travelling up from Canberra and doing such a wonderful job.

Michelle & the Sams family set up on Wednesday and did a really great job making the arena look beautiful. When everybody heads of home on Saturday night, the pack up teamed kicks into overdrive restoring the Arena to its original condition-with ACT & Southern Highlands, Sydney Regional & Leisure Coast associations working together, their help is very much appreciated by myself and the Council.

The Show Horse Council is lucky enough to have people who give up their time for the love of the sport. Special mention to new executive John Paget (Ring Master) Leanne McDowall and Roseanne Bowerman, who put so much of their time into the successful running of this event for the Council.

Finally, thank you to our members for supporting the WADE NSW Horse Of The Year Show, travelling such a long way and bringing your beautiful horses, you have helped this event become a truly prestigious event to compete at. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and congratulations to those combinations that qualified to compete at the 2019 Grand National.

Leonie Roberts,  
SHC Event Co-Ordinator

Images courtesy of Lisa Gordon, "Little More Grace Photography"

