



2018 PACIFIC COAST HACK CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT.

The Show Horse Council Of Australasia conducted its Sydney based Grand National qualifier on the 9th, 10th & 11th of February at Horseworld Maraylya. Over 330 horses and 150 Riders entered this year. The first year we held Pacific Coast at Horseworld we only had 175 horses, so it is very rewarding to see the popularity of Pacific Coast growing each year after year.

Friday's events Newcomers, Preliminary and the Children's classes held in the two indoor arenas, Classes where well represented in quality and numbers with the children's classes being very strong, congratulations to the children winning classes and qualifying early for the 2019 GN event. On the outside arena we conducted the new Young Horse classes for 4, 5 & 6-year old's. Nearly 80 horses entered these classes, the Council was thrilled to have these classes so well supported at its first event. The two Leading Rein classes held at the conclusion of Friday events 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 excellent numbers on Saturday, Ponies, Galloways & the Junior Riders classes where hotly contested. 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. Sundays numbers were reduced in the Hacks & Adult Riders, as some competitors chose to stay home in the air-conditioning and keep cool! After running the event for the last two years in such hot conditions the committee has decided the 2019 event will be better conducted in March hopefully making it more comfortable for everybody.

Each competitor in the horse classes was 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 Rachel Wessel (Vic), Mrs Maryanne Bullpitt (NSW), Mrs Bridget Sell (NSW), & Mr Andrew Hunt (SA), 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. The Show Horse Council thanks them for giving up their weekend to spend with us.



Thanks, must go to our new Major Sponsor Hollie McLeod from BARE EQUESTRIAN, a new business to the market and what a fabulous range of Riding leisure wear Hollie has created, almost made me want to pull the joddies on again! Hollie was on site at the Show so was able to provide that extra assistance & service to customers.

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 amazing, with for the first event Emma's Garlands producing some exquisite pieces for the very lucky class winners.

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 Nicola Donoghue, Jodie Winning, Amanda Peters and Lisa Cleary for stewarding. Roseanne Bowerman ensured the results were displayed quickly and accurately, Louise Ryan, Wendy Manchester & Demi Sams who did an amazing job out in the marshalling arena over three very long days. Joe Charnock assisted Helen with measuring & drug testing, Amanda Peters was on timing of classes.

Michelle & the Sam's family spent many days behind the scenes, allocating and setting up camping and parking which worked so well, and on Friday night did a really great job making the arena look beautiful. When everybody heads of home on Sunday night, there team kicks into overdrive restoring the stables and venue to its original condition-their help is very much appreciated by myself and the Council. Special mention to Bruce Flood, Roma Stonestreet & Helen Kirton who all put so much of their time into the running of all of the Councils events. The Show Horse Council is lucky enough to have people who give up their time for the love of the sport.

Finally, thank you to our members for supporting the Pacific Coast Championships, by 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, "A Little More Grace" Photography



