

The 2006 Showhorse Council of Australasia NSW Horse of the Year Show

Report by Garry Robson

The committee of the Showhorse Council of Australasia certainly pulled the right reign with the decision to move their 2006 NSW HOTY Show which this year was held on the 28th and 29th October from SIEC Horsley Park back to Hawkesbury Showground Clarendon West of Sydney. While no one will argue that SIEC, home of the prestigious Grand National is a magnificent complex Hawkesbury Showground is most certainly a more affordable user friendly setting for the smaller HOTY Show which this year drew 360 Horse and 127 Riding Class entries, a massive increase on the previous year.

The first of the Grand National Qualifying classes to be judge was the Riders on Saturday afternoon with Christine Comely from SA judging the Adult Riders, Karen Shaw Qld the Seniors and Robyn Pearce Vic the Juniors. Both the Champion and Runner Up in the Junior section came out of the 9 years and under 12 years class, with Champion going to Elizabeth Hoy from Nyngan and Runner up to Indya Povey of Cooma, both very promising riders. The two senior sections where extremely strong with Judge Karen Shaw having a good long look before finally settling on her winners. Karen's choice for the Champion in the 12 years and under 15 years section went to Bowal rider Annabel Mulready with the Runner Up going to Lauren Tomasi from Jindabyne. The 15 years and under 17 years Champion this year going to Jessica Stalling from Tahmoor over Bowal's Nellie Evans, both lovely, very correct, polished riders. The Adult sections gave SA judge Christine Comley the opportunity to cast her experience eye over some of the best riders that NSW has to offer. Her choice in the 17 years and under 21 years going to Alice Winnett from Holbrook, with Runner Up going the way of Emma Corrigan of Kenthurst. The over 21 year's group bought together a star studded 'Cox Plate' field of riders with a whisker separating the top 8 riders. Christine Comley finally settling on two exceptional riders Ellie Mangan from Wallsend as the 2006 Champion and Tamworth's Gary Collier as the Runner Up.

The 2006 HOTY Open Hack section judges Karen Shaw Qld (Ponies), Christine Comley SA (Galloways) and Robyn Pearce Vic (Hacks) all worked through exceptionally large classes to find their Top 8 Horses to take through to the finals, before the three judges came together to judge the finals.

The first of the finals saw the judging of the Small Galloway of the Year. And it was a case of déjà vu when last years winner the all conquer ring Beaufort Heiress owned by Sue Peters and Beaufort Horse Nutrition Pty Ltd was again crown the Champion. One wonders what more this magnificent chestnut mare needs to achieve before finding her way to the breeding barn. Runner up going to the impressive Helden Park De La Hoya who sat up beautifully and worked softly forward for the Johnston Family from Pitt Town. The Large Galloway Championship capped off a memorable year for the Adams Family of High Range when their nice moving grey gelding Paint the Stars of Astral was called forward as the 2006 Champion, this outstanding horse having earlier this year gained the accolade of Large Galloway Champion at the Grand National. Runner Up was awarded to the Ausbain Partnership's Lanieres who was a transfer from the Small Galloway Section.

The 'Blue Ribband' Small and Large Saddle Hack of the Year created immense interest from the huge crowd in attendance. The Small Saddle Hack title was awarded to Gillespie and Roy Davis, this beautiful brown gelding is the classic thoroughbred type, working softly forward with lovely even paces for the master horseman, and as one would expect coming from the Davis yard looked an absolute treat. Hayley Preston from Temora and CP Tuscany worked up to the mark to take out the Runner Up. Stroke of Fortune owned by Jane Smith and J Van De Wakker made it back to back wins when named the 2006 Large Saddle Hack of the Year. This outstanding chestnut Thoroughbred mare was last year the recipient of the same title. Runner up going the way of Gianni and Roy Davis from The Oaks. Gianni having recently took out the honours of Champion Large Saddle Hack at the GN Qualifying Country Hack Championships in Tamworth.

The Wells Family from Jameroo pulled off a unique double when they were awarded both the Champion and the Runner Up in the Small Pony of the Year section. Champion going to their lovely chestnut mare LJS Prediction and Runner Up to their nice moving well related buckskin gelding Weston Park Countryman. Both these horses came out of the 12h & n/e 12.2h class. The Large Pony of the Year saw last years bridesmaid become this years bride when Lisa Cleary's beautiful bay mare LJS Heavens Above was awarded the championship over the former WA pony Mirinda Royal Emblem, this hugely successful grey gelding capping off a great show for his owners the Wells Family from Jameroo.

This year the Show Hunter section was judged by Geoff Lyall from Qld who was impressed with the overall numbers and quality of the Show Hunters presented before him. Both his Champion and Runner Up in the Small Show Hunter Pony of the Year came out of the under 12h class with Champion going to Glen Lynton Winter Lily for Tatum Bradley of Bowal. Rayglyn Mystique for the Dalley Family of Muswellbrook the Runner Up. Oakvale Royal Theme exhibited by Kerry Patchett, Bev and Christie Hall from Coledale again took top honours in the Large Show Hunter Pony section over Landervale Bosanova exhibited by Deakin's Ellie Skacel. Both these ponies came from the over 13.2h and n/e 14h class.

Probably one of Australasia's most successful Show Hunter Galloway's Lowlynn Pavorotti exhibited by Kylie Dengate from Hornsby added another major award to his impressive résumé when awarded the Championship over Springmead Lewis for Erin Montford of Richmond. The Champion and Runner Up Show Hunter Hack where to both come from the same height section, the over 16h & n/e 16.2h with Absolut for the Wadsworth Family from Double Bay taking the Championship honours over Abelard Bailey exhibited by Brittany Gater of Keiraville the Runner Up.