



2016 PACIFIC COAST HACK CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT.

The Show Horse Council Of Australasia conducted its Sydney based Grand National qualifier over the weekend of 5th, 6th & 7th of February at Horseworld, Maraylya. This is the seventh year we have held Pacific Coast at the venue, the indoor arena again proving popular.

Friday's events Newcomers, Preliminary and the Children's classes were held inside to utilise the main indoor & back arenas, Ponies were in the back arena while Hack and Galloway Classes were in the main arena. Classes were 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 2017 GN event. The two Leading Rein classes held at the conclusion of Friday events had good numbers in both classes; the Skinner Family donated carrots for the Children's ponies & The Parker Family donated Minnie Mouse & Mickey Mouse toys, for every competitor, and the children loved them.

Grand National qualifying classes followed with excellent numbers in attendance. Over 340 horses, and 145 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. On Saturday classes for Ponies, Galloways and Junior Riders were held while Sunday saw Hacks and Adult Riders featured. 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.

Each competitor in the horse classes are 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- MS Marcia Beard, (Vic Ponies), Mrs Tanya Benton-Hall (NSW Galloways), Miss Anna Duffy (WA Hacks), & Miss Suanne Vale (VIC Hunters), All working very hard over three very 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 Major Sponsor Karen Hendricks from SAIGE Accountants & Financial Planners, whom sponsored this event for the third year. We also have loyal class sponsors whom donate in many ways to offer class winners prizes and products. I think everyone will agree the Garlands, Rugs & Ribbon combinations looked amazing, HM Garlands from Queensland produced some exquisite pieces for the very lucky class winners. Without this very generous sponsorship from businesses and individuals the SHC could not run such great events for all our members.

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 Tina Harding, Kim Martin for stewarding, we also had two junior members- Broni Sams & Emily Lord join us in the ring, I think it's great for these younger riders to experience the other side of the ring. Roseanne Bowerman ensured the results were displayed quickly and accurately, and Mark Leslie who did an amazing job out in the marshalling area, assisted by Sandra James on Friday. Both Joe Charnock & Gary Truran assisted Helen with measuring.

Michelle & Demi Sams spent many days behind the scenes, 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 hoped you enjoyed yourselves and congratulations to those combinations that qualified to compete at the 2017 Grand National.

Leonie Roberts, SHC Show Secretary.