

### (QUARTER ONE – OCTOBER 2010)

Following the release of the Harness Strategic Plan Vision Paper in April 2010 and subsequent industry submissions, the RWWA Board endorsed key recommendations of the Plan in June 2010. RWWA will be providing a quarterly update in Racing Ahead on the progress of initiatives and implementation.

#### ➤ Enhance Positioning of the Harness Product:

- It is anticipated that Digital Video Network (DVN) will be installed into both Harvey and Narrogin tracks prior to the commencement of their season in November.
- Albany Harness Racing Club, Central Wheatbelt Harness Racing Club and Wagin Trotting Club will have their respective Cup meetings televised on Sky2 via Satellite News Gathering (SNG). All three Clubs sought to have their Cup meetings on Sky, and on the condition the Club bears the SNG cost, RWWA has approved the requests.

#### ➤ Stabilise Volume:

- As most stakeholders would be aware, a decision on the future of the Geraldton Harness Racing Club was made by the RWWA Board at its July 2010 meeting. The RWWA Board recognised that in order for the Western Australian harness industry to be provided with a more certain future, it needs to undergo a process of change. The first such initiative being to reduce the volume of harness racing in the State, as a result, the 2010/11 harness racing calendar reflects this change with a reduction of eight race meetings from 293 in 2009/10 to 285 this season. Whilst the Board supported in principle the need to reduce the volume of harness racing in line with the Harness Strategic Plan recommendations, it was acutely aware that such a reduction would ultimately impact one or multiple clubs. After considerable review of the various alternatives, it was decided the removal of eight race dates at Geraldton was the most equitable for the State's harness racing participants.
- WATA and Fremantle HRC amalgamation – progress on this initiative is in the hands of the respective Clubs and their membership groups, with RWWA offering its support where required.

#### ➤ Diversification of Product:

- Mares & Fillies concessional opportunities – The race programmes committee monitor the application of races for fillies and mares and preferential draws based on sex and additional races for 2 year old fillies will be programmed.

#### ➤ Enhance Participant Pool:

- Outreach consultation will commence in late October with key interested parties (particularly those who expressed interest throughout the Harness Strategic Plan submission process) on the areas of Pony Trots, Mentor Identification and the Young Ambassador programme.

#### ➤ Breeding:

- RWWA will await the outcome of a National Review being conducted by Harness Racing Australia (HRA) prior to commencement of the Economic Review of the WA equine breeding industry. The establishment of the Harness Racing Consultative Group (HRCG) Breeding Incentive sub-committee has seen the early introduction of two \$50,000 WestBred Classics in July of the current season and the start up of the voluntary WA Breeders Incentive Scheme (WABI\$), which runs in conjunction with the WestBred breeding bonus scheme.



#### ➤ Market and Promote Product:

- Tri-code Marketing – The 2010 *West Australian* Racing Industry Hall of Fame dinner will take place on Thursday 25th November at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. This gala event celebrates and recognises WA's distinguished and eventful tri-code racing industry. All three codes will showcase feature events to coincide with the dinner: Group 1 Golden Nugget 4yo (Gloucester Park) – Friday 26th November; Group 2 Winterbottom Stakes (Ascot) – Saturday 27th November; RWWA Hall of Fame Best 8s (Cannington) – Saturday 27th November.
- Events - The 2009/10 Harness Horse of the Year luncheon will take place on Sunday 17th October at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, Peppermint Grove.
- Owners Strategy – streamlining of owner databases has commenced.

#### ➤ Infrastructure:

- A recent communication by the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Hon Terry Waldron announced that the WA racing industry will benefit from a \$13m Racecourse Infrastructure Grants Program over the ensuing 5 years. This funding is dependent upon the Burswood Casino gaining approval from the Gaming and Wagering Commission for additional gaming capacity. The principal target of the program will be the establishment or improvement of infrastructure that is critical to the conduct of racing and/or training activities. As available funds are limited, the Program will be operated on a partnership basis. Grants will be available to part fund projects and recipient organisations will be expected to leverage funding from other sources. Grant applications will need to be made to RWWA who will make a recommendation for the Minister's consideration. Final approval rests with the Minister.
- The Byford Environmental Audit has been conducted, with template development underway for other Clubs.

#### ➤ Animal Welfare:

- Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) and the RSPCA (Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) recently announced they have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) agreeing to facilitate the successful investigation of alleged breaches of animal welfare in racing animals.

Under the terms of the MoU, both parties recognise the need to cooperate in order to ensure that the welfare of thoroughbreds, standardbreds and greyhounds in Western Australia are protected and any alleged breaches of welfare are investigated in accordance with state legislature and/or the rules of racing.

**2009/10  
Harness Horse  
of the Year**

Racing and Wagering Western Australia is pleased to host the  
2009/10 Harness Racing Awards

Sunday 17th October 2010  
Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club  
Keane Street, Peppermint Grove

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**RWWA**  
RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA