



## Newsletter - January 2021

### Happy New Year!

The JOC hopes that all our judges, officials and volunteers had a chance to relax and spend time with their family and friends over Christmas - at least the threat of bushfires was somewhat diminished this Christmas but we all remained vigilant and concerned around Covid-19.

While we hoped 2021 and the New Year would see an easing of various State and Territory border restrictions it is already evident that we will be required to live and work in an uncertain environment for most of the year ahead. We will have uncertainty and a range of stresses (financial, health, family, work, horses, farms etc) that might impact us personally, your immediate family, friends or fellow judges and officials during the coming months.

Please don't forget to look out for one another and before you respond to anything that you may perceive to be negative on Social Media think twice – you never know what that other person is feeling or going through.

*Vale - Josie Potts*



The AHSA membership across Australia was very saddened to learn of the recent passing of Josie Potts. Josie was one of us – a fellow judge, those of us who were lucky enough to judge with her and get to know her at a personal level already will know that she was a horsewoman with integrity and ethical values. She will be sorely missed amongst the AHSA judging ranks. Attached is a message sent to Josie's mother Margaret and sister Carolyn on behalf of all Judges and Officials of the JOC.

*Dear Margaret and Carolyn,*

*I am writing to you with a heavy heart as the Chair of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia's, Judges and Officials Committee (JOC). The JOC consists of literally hundreds of judges and officials Australia wide – we all have been shocked and saddened by the untimely passing of Josie.*

*Josie was a large part of the fabric of the broader Australian Arabian horse community and she was obviously a stalwart of the South Australian Arabian Riders and Breeders Society Inc. Her advocacy and support for South Australia was unwavering and the success over many years of both the South Australian Championships and The Main Event shows are testament to her drive, passion and commitment.*

*Josie was a force to be reckoned with in her advocacy for the Arabian horse throughout Australia but also her ethical approach about doing the right thing as a judge and conducting herself with integrity. Many in the JOC have had the pleasure to judge alongside her and at times to be guided by her knowledgeable and balanced advice.*

*We can only imagine how you and your extended family will be grieving her loss but in the broader Arabian horse community and especially amongst our judging ranks we too are just numb with her passing – it will take time for all of us to process this loss.*

*Josie has however left behind a legacy that will continue to be remembered and aspired to amongst our AHSA judges – she was indeed a horsewoman of passion, integrity, and with high ethics and morals. Most of all she was our friend and we will all miss her.*

*With sympathy*

*Graham Smith  
Chair, Judges and Officials Committee*

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### **Judge's Show Expenses – Insurance Implications:**

Helen Dohan our AHSA Secretary/Registrar has asked that all judges be reminded again that should they seek any additional payments, such as a judging fee (apart from reasonable reimbursement of expenses incurred around travel, fuel, meals etc) that they **will not** be covered by the AHSA Voluntary Workers Insurance and as such will need to source their own coverage.

Please speak to Helen or AHSA office staff should you have a query but also make sure you are familiar with your obligations under our Judges Rule Book, (1 October 2020) – Paragraph 2.4 (k). Finally, it is strongly recommended that Judges and Show Organisers use the official 'Judges Acceptance Sheets' to minimise any misunderstanding.

### **Australian Stock Horse Classes – Clarification concerning Saddlery:**

Following a written request seeking clarification from an AHSA member the JOC and Board reviewed the meaning and intent behind the definition of an "Australian Stock Saddle" as per our current AHSA Competition Rule Book, 15 December 2020 – Rule 30, Australian Classes Pleasure, Working Stock Horse.

Over the course of time the traditional Australian Stock Saddle (Poley) has seen a change to include the "swinging fender". The main difference between the two saddles is that the swinging fender saddle allows the stirrups to move – this type of saddle was developed predominantly for polocrosse and campdrafting. It allows for more movement from both horse and rider. A secondary issue was that the traditional stock saddle had narrower leathers and tended to "pinch" riders – hence the change in design.

Following a review of past and current show practices and clarification from the Australian Stock Horse Society both types of Australian Stock Saddle are permitted – there should be no discrimination between either of these saddles being used in the abovementioned classes.

A point to note however for Judges is that in recent years a new western styled variation called a "half breed" has emerged. This saddle has a pronounced western styled horn (more typical of a traditional western saddle). This type of saddle is not acceptable for use in these classes.

### **State and Territory Judges – Training Accreditation**

Dear Judges and Officials,

It has come to the attention of the JOC and AHSA Board that there may be some confusion about 'accreditation'

processes for Judges when they attend various State based or individually run shows which offer courses, seminars or training opportunities.

While it is generally encouraged that judges of all levels regularly attend a wide variety of training courses (including those that other breed or saddle horse societies may run) you need to be mindful that some State or Club based training has not been pre-endorsed by the JOC and the AHSA. In most cases these organisations are acting in good faith, however, these courses will not count toward a formal accreditation retrospectively to either become a judge or for upgrade purposes.

For State based Clubs or Groups the processes to seek 'accreditation' for any training is straightforward but it does take some forward planning. Firstly, they must approach their State based JOC representative and have a conversation with them about the type of training proposed and its relevance to the JOC training program and to discuss any synergies that may exist.

A formal written proposal would then follow and this document must be submitted to the State JOC representative for consideration who will in turn have the proposal reviewed and discussed by the JOC and if deemed a suitable proposal will then be submitted to the Board of the AHSA for endorsement. As much detail as possible should be provided about the proposed training including details of guest speakers and how the training aligns to the JOC and AHSA.

Currently the JOC is providing a range of 'accredited' training opportunities for new candidates and those seeking upgrades at a number of Arabian and Open Shows in different States and Territories. These endorsed training activities include, mentoring opportunities, shadow judging and ringside discussions and critiquing of halter and saddle classes by National Panel and International Judges only. These training opportunities will be listed from time to time in the JOC Newsletter however candidates should also contact their State representatives for more regular updates and opportunities.

The JOC and Board of the AHSA has been listening to members and Judges about providing cost effective and State based training wherever possible. We are pleased with the progress we have made to date and the support we have received from judges and show officials. We will continue to provide innovative, localised and cost effective solutions wherever we can.

Graham Smith  
Chair, Judges and Officials Committee

### **Judges Training – Opportunities for shadow judging and ringside adjudication with National Panel and International Judges.**

As judges may recall we highlighted in our December JOC Newsletter that we wanted to reduce costs for the Board in regard to the conduct of Australia wide judges training and where appropriate provide a more 'hands on' approach in training and evaluation.

One of the elements we are trialling is the use of existing Affiliate and Non-Affiliate shows to provide opportunities for shadow judging (depending on the agreement of the respective show committee and Judge). We are also trialling having either National Panel or International judges sit ringside (in a relatively isolated area) with probationers and upgrade candidates to critique horses and discuss how the respective classes are run and judged in a more relaxed atmosphere. (Please note the Key Dates listed below).

Due to Covid-19 we need to remain ever mindful of health protocols and not to be a burden on the show committee or actual Judge in the ring. We are pleased and very grateful for the support we have received to date from various show committees, judges and most importantly the Board of the AHSA.

The JOC will endeavour to provide regular updates on opportunities for probationers and upgrade candidates to attend shows via this newsletter or through the AHSA office. Please also speak to your relevant State JOC representative about possible future opportunities. Please note that Covid-19 outbreaks and/or border restrictions has the potential to impact on the running of these shows, including the availability of judges etc.

### **Key Dates**

#### **13 February 2021 – VADOBA Inc, Barastoc Horse of the Year, Arabian Ring.**

The judge for the Arabian ring at this show, Jodie van Breugel (Show Horse Council Judge) has kindly agreed to provide shadow judging opportunities for eligible candidates during the saddle classes at this show. Similarly, Kate Dertell (International Judge) has kindly agreed to provide opportunities for eligible candidates to sit ringside with her and critique some (TBA) halter classes. Contact Kate Dertell 0412304500 regarding both opportunities.

#### **20 February 2021 – Arabian Horse Association of Queensland, Summer Classic Show.**

The show organisers have kindly agreed to allow Mr Doug Rutherford to provide shadow judging opportunities for eligible candidates while he is judging classes. Mrs Colleen Rutherford will be available to assist eligible candidates ringside to critique horse and explain how the classes are run and judged etc. Contact Doug or Colleen on 0429871115.

#### **19-21 February 2021 – Double Diamond Show.**

The show organisers have kindly agreed to allow for a 1-2 hour seminar (Friday 19<sup>th</sup>) followed by some ring/ringside shadow judging with Graham Smith. The JOC are hopeful that we can provide a mix of opportunities to critique halter and saddle classes during the course of the show. Contact Graham Smith, 0418627101

#### **21 February 2021 – The NSW and ACT Branch of Dilutes Australia Ltd, Summer Show, Hall Showgrounds (Canberra).**

Graham Smith is judging the Open Hack and Rider Ring and has been given approval by the organising committee to allow for shadow judging candidates to participate. Numbers will be limited but it is a good opportunity to judge and learn about open saddle horse classes. Contact Graham Smith, 0418627101

#### **4 March 2021 – Judges Meeting, Australian Championships, Boneo Park.**

The Board of the AHSA has agreed to the JOC conducting a brief meeting of judges on site at approximately 7.30 pm. The meeting is to introduce the new JOC committee, talk briefly about our future directions and also provide a chance for judges to ask questions and to socialise together in a relaxed atmosphere.

#### **13-14 March 2021 - Western Australian Arabian State Championships.**

The WA show organising committee has kindly agreed to Graham Smith and Kate Dertell providing shadow judging/seminar opportunities at this show.

Contact Graham Smith, 0418627101 or Kate Dertell, 0412304500.

#### **27-28 March 2021 – South Australian Arabian Championships and The Main Event.**

The show organisers of both these shows (being held over consecutive days) have kindly agreed to allow training opportunities for eligible candidates.

Doug and Colleen Rutherford may be available to sit with eligible candidates ringside to critique halter and saddle classes and to discuss how the classes are run and conducted etc. Contact Doug or Colleen Rutherford, 0429871115

#### **10-12 April 2021 – Western Australian Jackpot Show.**

The show organisers have kindly agreed to allow training opportunities for eligible candidates. Doug and Colleen Rutherford may be available for shadow judging/seminar opportunities at the show.

### **State Based Reporting:**

This JOC newsletter will normally contain information for judges and officials on an Australia wide basis but depending on timing and issues specific to each area we may include specific updates from your State or Territory based JOC representatives. These representatives regularly meet to discuss and plan a wide range of JOC issues.

The following is a brief report from the Queensland JOC Judges committee, chaired by Colleen Rutherford. “ The QLD JOC committee have been busy planning and considering ways in which they can help implement the strategies agreed by the Board of the AHSA to train, educate and support judges.

The Qld JOC committee has been meeting remotely (via telephone and email) but more recently met in person on 19<sup>th</sup> January to develop some Qld specific initiatives (such as engaging with a range of local Arabian and open show societies) to help train judges in a cost effective manner.

A number of issues and new ideas were also discussed and forwarded to the JOC for consideration in regard to issues around mentoring; upgrades and examination processes and comparative systems of judging. We are also working toward holding a Qld based judges workshop in April – more details will follow. “

### **Meet the Judges:**

The AHSA currently has some 119 licensed judges listed on its website spread throughout the States and Territories and across various judging disciplines. As a result of the tyranny of distance across this great country of ours we don't always have a chance to meet in person and learn about one another at a social level.

The JOC would like to start the process to introduce some of our judges as time and space permits via this newsletter through a brief BIO (approx. 300 words). The BIO does not necessarily need to focus entirely on your judging experience but can include insights about your hobbies, passions, work etc outside of the Arabian community.

A friendly reminder for all judges (and probationers) to please download a photo of themselves and any judging appointments or approved seminars you may undertake for the AHSA JOC Judges page – the AHSA office staff can assist if you need help.

### **Sue Oberg:**



Sue is a National Panel judge with a broad range of experience who recently took up a committee position on the JOC. Sue





has judged at the highest levels throughout Australia and New Zealand. While she loves judging her Arabians she is also a licensed judge for a number of other breeds and saddle horses and is also highly respected in these fields.

Sue mentioned that she was very humbled and pleased to assist the Board by accepting a position with the JOC. Sue wants to assist anyone wanting to become a judge or seeking an upgrade – she hopes that she can help draw out the knowledge that many candidates have and to give them the confidence to progress through the judging ranks.

Sue lives in Bringelly, NSW and likes this area because it is close to SIEC and other horse areas and events. She is however currently on the lookout for another property that might be even better! Sue has many memorable judging experiences throughout her career but rates judging and competing at the Sydney Royal as her most special show- as a child she thought it was the most amazing show and then to have opportunities later in life to compete and judge remain special to her.

### **Erica Stotter:**

I currently live in WA; but have also lived in the NT and NSW as well as Hong Kong and Canada. I am a qualified and practicing primary school teacher with over 35 years experience. I also have an Advanced Certificate in Equine Management. In 1985 I founded Tazi Arabian Stud, breeding a variety of Purebreds and Derivatives.

In the past, I competed with my Purebred Arabian stallion in halter, Show horse, dressage, costume, eventing and endurance. I currently compete on my Purebred Arabian mare in halter, Show horse, dressage and costume.

Since qualifying as an AHSA panel judge I have also qualified as a National Panel Dilutes judge; and am currently expanding my judging qualifications to include EA Show horse and Dressage.

My equine goal is to continue breeding beautiful but functional Arabians.

Personal goals are to become a grey nomad and travel Australia with my wonderful husband. I also want to squeeze in a visit to Victoria Falls, Antarctica to see the Southern Aurora, and return to Canada to see the Northern Lights.



### **Shannon Parry:**



My love for Arabian horses started while still in primary school, my bedroom walls had posters of Arabians. I was also binge reading anything I could find on the breed in books in the school library to inhaling the Arabian magazines!

I begged and pleaded with my non-horse family until I finally got my first Arabian, a Gai General purebred Arabian gelding when I was just 12 years old. During my high school years I had the opportunity to work at Fairview Stud and saw many amazing horses and fell even more in love with their beauty and temperaments – I never looked back.

During the last 30 years I have had some great horses come through my stables both purebreds and derivatives. They have all competed successfully in halter and under saddle at some of our biggest shows. Tahlia, my eldest daughter and I had the

most amazing time as we competed as a team in many events including: youth and interschool events; western pleasure; stockhorse; dressage and open hacking.

I have been an active member of both the AVHC and AHAQ and also the Qld Youth Group for over ten years. Judging was a natural progression in the sport and breed I love and am now a National Panel Judge. I love the opportunity to judge, travel and meet new people and especially to see more amazing horses.

Currently we own three purebred geldings, Bullion, Mulawa Inspired and Sniper SA. We also own one derivative

mare we bred from our beloved champion Vixon as well as our first Friesian horse owned by my youngest daughter Maddison.

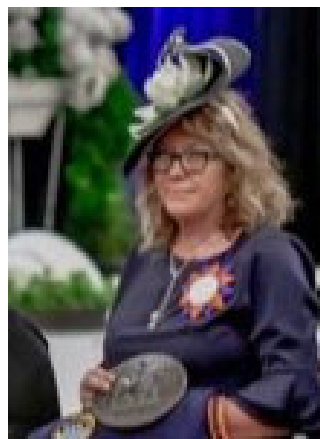
**Julie Lloyd:**

I live on our farm near Burra South Australia, and have been breeding riding ponies and derivatives since 1982. I also run a business called Rags for Nags, making custom equine wear and accessories, this was established in 1987.

I competed myself riding show horses and showing in hand for many years, also prepping clients horses for in hand work as well. I now enjoy judging the stock of the breeders and producers within the equestrian community.

I have been lucky to judge at Royals and major shows for the Show Horse Council of Australasia and Equestrian Australia all around Australia, and also had the pleasure of judging in New Zealand. I am currently a Level 1 Probationary judge with the AHSA.

My most rewarding judging experience would be officiating at the Nationals, the Australasian Show Horse and Rider Championships, it is such a prestigious and well run show.



I have a love of antiques and art, and am now discovering oil painting as an emerging artist. I am concentrating on portraits, animals and still life. Last year I had my first solo exhibition and it was very successful as such it has encouraged me to pursue my art career further.

I also enjoy fishing, kayaking and listening to a vast array of music while I paint. Favourite food is seafood and good cheese, and naturally teamed with good wine from the Clare Valley wine region which is only 30 mins away.

**Tash Rogers:**

I have been fortunate to have grown up around horses my whole life, competing at my first Arabian show at 3 years of age. I have continued to compete but in recent years I have shifted to predominantly dressage up to FEI level and showing up to national level.

I have also enjoyed judging and have been fortunate to judge open and breed shows since I was 15. I am now excited to begin my journey as an Arabian judge, currently I am a Probationary level 1 and look forward to progressing with my qualifications into the future.

Apart from Arabians and horses in general I have other passions in my life. In my spare time I love photography and also class myself as a bit of a foodie!. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Psychology with the hope that one day I will become a Psychologist.

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