

## AANC – Australian Arabian National Championships AGM Report 2024

After the success of the 2022 Show, work commenced early in trying to source a confirmed venue for the 2023 Australian National Arabian Championships. The preferred option was Sydney International Equestrian Centre again as there were several people who couldn't make it to the 2022 show because of the flooding in and around Sydney and hadn't had a chance to attend since prior to COVID in Australia. Unfortunately, we received confirmation very late that several other groups also wanted to run events at SIEC in March 2023. We had two February options to choose from or we could move the show somewhere else.

The board agreed the best option at the stage we were at, was to choose the later date in February. It was not an ideal date/Month to be running a show in Sydney as the weather is very unreliable. We were sincerely hoping for conducive weather conditions!

The schedule for the show was available much earlier for the 2023 show and Nominate was open for entries earlier too. There is still work to be done with Nominate to make the entry process a little easier for competitors. Nominate also conducted the scoring at the show – this ran very smoothly and results were available much quicker.

The show ran on a similar program though some classes were changed or deleted due to higher or lower numbers of competitors based on previous years numbers entered.

We were reasonably happy with the numbers of horses entered for the show, 200 horses – obviously more is better though with the competition of other groups running shows around the same time it does take its toll – People choose what they want to attend when there is more choice however the Australian Arabian National Championships are the pinnacle of showing in Australia for Arabian Horses and will always remain that.

We are lucky there is a great team of people behind the show – we all work together to get the job done. There are no heroes, it's a group effort.

Work commenced early on our 2024 show. This will be held in Werribee at the National Equestrian Centre. The dates were confirmed at the 2023 show and the program has been refreshed.

The schedule was completed early again and entries opened early again as well to allow competitors to virtually pay off entries over time – strangely, only a few took advantage of this.

Plans are in an advanced stage for the Championships – its really just up to the support of the members now in entering their horses.

Kerryn Aldridge.