



## AUSTRALIAN HAFLINGER HORSE BREEDER'S ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES (Y27 18903)

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# NEWSLETTER April 09

*Make Your Haflinger Dreams Come True...*



Ladybird 14yo Classified Broodmare for sale contact Liane 0412518236.



14yo Classified Broodmare Marie is for sale contact Liz 0407 510 044.



See [www.ahhba.pbworks.com](http://www.ahhba.pbworks.com) for further details





## ***From The Editor.....***

What if you would like to own a Haflinger, and dont know where to start? I suggest browsing the AHHBA websites, looking at Horse Deals and attending meetings and classification days.

The AHHBA is a source of information that may assist your identification of which horse may suit depending on your time, resources, criteria and abilities. Importantly, the AHHBA can confirm whether the potential horse is a purebred, eligible for breeding and showing. Part bred and unregistered horses, and unclassified horses, are not recognised as breeding or as exhibition stock by the AHHBA, which may lead to disappointment at a later date if purchased. Until you find the horse of your dreams you may be an associate member, as I was, for a number of years before finding my beloved Aspen. I am also willing to run wanted classifieds advertisements on the website.



## **Dates for the Diary**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 26th July

#### **Fernances Creek Haflinger Stud**

40 Great North Road

Fernances Crossing via Laguna 2325

All members invited to attend. Meeting from 11am.

A viewing of Fernances Creek Haflinger Stud stock will also be made in the afternoon. This will be an excellent opportunity to see a wide variety of stock including stallion Aaron.

### **AHHBA Classification**

Saturday 19th Sept

#### **Arkley Haflinger Stud**

4 Emily Road, Mt Vincent.

Please RSVP early. We do ask all intentions be notified by 1 Sept to Anni and Julian on AH-HBA@huntervalley.com.au or by tel: 02 4938 0333 or fax: 02 4938 0512.

An expectation of ten horses is current. Due to the large number of horses due for assessment another classification is planned to be held near Goulburn in early 2010.

## ***Sydney Royal Easter Show 09***

Six Haflingers were exhibited at the Sydney Royal Easter Show early on the morning of Tuesday 21st April. Unlike previous years, the area available to work for the horses was generous, and although thoroughly damp, the going appeared good - aside from those employing heels!

Led Haflinger Stallion or Colt any age, was competed between Aqua and Winterstolz. Both stallion and colt were impeccably behaved. Young Winterstolz, at two and a half years, was an absolute credit to the breed, upbringing and handling, having grown into a tall yet elegant horse with absolutely no problem in the intense Royal Show environment which could offer many challenges for young colts. Aqua was the winner on the day and went through to challenge the winning mare for Best Haflinger Exhibit and the Luis Hupfau Annual trophy.

In the second class, for Led Haflinger Mare or Filly any age, three competitors were present. Steiner, owned by Sue Jones competed against Oorinda, led by Louise Venticinque and Lady, led by Courtney. The judge, Pam Dalrymple, placed Steiner first, followed by Oorinda and Lady. Oorinda classified to a high standard as a three year old in 2008. Lady, not yet three years of age, has much growing to do but demonstrated her adaptability and temperament amongst the busiest show ring in Australia.



*Bianca Sault with Steiner* Winning First Place in the Haflinger Mare/ Filly Class With AHHBA Vice President Heather Payne and Judge Pam Dalrymple

A short break followed in the stewarding of the Best Haflinger Exhibit award. The award for this class is the Luis Hupfau Consul General Perpetual Trophy donated by the late Luis Hupfau, founder of Bunderra Stud. Ten year old stallion, Arkley Aqua, won the coveted award. Aqua has won this award many times and there is no doubt Julian enjoys seeing his lovely stallion working in this prestigious enviroment as much as in the dressage arena.





I am sure it gave as much pleasure for us all to see Brittany Hoey on Aqua, Hannah-Rose Shilcock on Araluen and Courtney on Lady competing in the Ridden Haflinger class. Aqua at one point demonstrated his power and suppleness by sneaking into a passage out on the ring, while Hannah-Rose and Courtney maintained a tidy workout on young horses to receive first, second and third respectively.



*Brittany Hoey on  
Arkley Aqua*

The class just screamed with potential between the horses and their young riders. It is certainly a good sign for the future although entries were down on previous years.



*Courtney on Lady and  
Hannah-Rose on Araluen, Youth of Tocal College, Riding Young Horses At the Sydney Royal Easter Show*

With another show year over, I urge competitors to get out there and show their Haflingers, just for the fun of it. It is not everything to have the whitest mane, nor the most flawless workout. How could that be you say? Todd sent me a little note about a RAS experience that says it all:

"Late in the afternoon Louie was getting a bit tetchy in his stall so I took him for a walk. As I went past the main arena he was mobbed by some kids and next thing I knew there was a crowd of people around him. I noticed a craggy hand reaching between two kids and when I moved the wall of kids aside I saw the hand belonged to a middle

aged woman in a wheel chair who was suffering from cerebral palsy. She was trying to reach Louie for a pat. It was almost as if Louie knew what he had to do and he reached over and offered his muzzle to the woman for a pat. It was a real "awww" moment for the crowd but it was shattered by a woman gasping a child's name. I looked toward Louie's rump in the direction of the sound and saw a little girl with two blonde pig tails standing right behind Louie calmly plaiting his tail.

*Led Stallion/Colt*

- 1st Arkley Aqua exhibited for Arkley Haflinger Stud by B. Hoey
- 2nd Winterstolz exhibited for SETCO Show Team by J. Venticinque

*Led Mare/Filly*

- 1st Steiner exhibited for S. Jones by B. Sault
  - 2nd Oorinda Exhibited for SETCO Show Team by L. Venticinque
  - 3rd Lady Exhibited for SETCO Show Team by Courtney of Tocal College
- Luis Hupfau Consul General Perpetual Trophy for Best Haflinger Exhibit: *Arkley Aqua* exhibited for Arkley Haflinger Stud by B. Hoey

*Ridden Haflinger*

- 1st Arkley Aqua exhibited for Arkley Haflinger Stud by B. Hoey
- 2nd Araluen Exhibited for SETCO Show Team by H-R. Shilcock
- 3rd Lady Exhibited for SETCO Show Team by Courtney of Tocal College



**Haflinger Jokes**

Since no-one was adventurous enough to submit entries to win the Haflinger Handbag from Cowboy Concepts last edition, I thought you all probably needed a good laugh. Here are some horrendous jokes, its your punishment!

How many Haflingers do you need to change a lightbulb?  
Just one. Before dinnertime.

A Haflinger, A Connemara and A Highland walked into a bar and ordered drinks. The Connemara ordered a very large Guinness, The Highland, a fine Scotch Whisky. The Haflinger disappeared....to the bistro....and was not seen for hours.





## Our Breed Display at Equitana

*Report by Heather Payne*

Liz Grant, Kerry and Phil Rosetta and myself organised and ran the Haflinger Breed Display at Equitana in November 2008.

It was a very successful even though on two days the weather was terrible. Over forty-five percent of attendees travelled to Equitana from interstate and five percent from overseas smashing all previous records for attendance. Commercial sales and economic impact for the ? These are official figures so it is a quite important venue to display our Haflingers.

There was a lot of interest in our horses and we met quite a lot of people who own or have owned Haflingers but do not belong to any association. Liz did a sterling effort to bring Arkley Atlas each day and to ride him in the events. He was chosen as a display horse for one clinic and he behaved so well he was chosen for each day following. Riding for the Disabled, SA were looking to buy an aged reliable horse and the Victorian Branch of Riding for the Disabled said they had two Haflingers and they were the best horses they had ever had.

It was really great to see so many different breeds represented and to meet the people that show them. The Gypsy Draught (piebald draught horses) were behind us and I really love these horses. I saw them originally in 1995 at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in Ireland. The Gypsies breed them and show them for very high prices. Ballinasloe was the home of my great great grandmother – Bridget Hall before she migrated to Australia in 1841 so perhaps the genetic call of my ancestors leads me to my affinity with the Irish breeds generally.

## Update From Tocal

For all those waiting in anticipation to find out how Hannah-Rose has settled into Tocal, here is the report from her father, Todd.

Hannah-Rose has started horse husbandry at Tocal and is loving it. She got a real difficult head shy 2 year old green broke horse which had to be hobbled before she could put a headstall on it. It reared and struck out

at Rosie knocking her on her butt. She was quite apprehensive but I counseled her to remain calm and to believe in her abilities. By the end of the week she had hogged it's mane using electric clippers (no mean feat on a violently head shy horse), was jumping it bare back over barrels and had taught it to bow. She got three merits in her first three competencies. As you can tell I am enormously proud of her efforts.

We are enormously proud of her too!! I think it is almost every young horse enthusiasts dream to go to a place like Tocal. The Tocal Open Day is being held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd May from 9am–5pm—visitors most welcome.



## Horse Health

**Know your horse's vital signs:  
Respiration**

HYGAIN © 2005

Everybody who owns, rides or handles horses should know their horse's vital signs. These simple checks will help tell if your horse is healthy or if you will have to call the vet. By being able to tell your veterinarian these simple but crucial parameters during an emergency (often when you have to give information over the phone), you will get more accurate and appropriate treatment for your horse.

In this article the third vital sign, respiration, is examined. Other signs to be featured in future editions include gut sounds and dehydration. Previously featured for 2008 was temperature and pulse. These articles appear on the Hy Gain website at

<http://www.hygain.com.au/nutrition/VitalSigns.html>

Your horse's vital signs should be regularly monitored. It may be a good idea to write them in a diary and keep a note on the horse's behaviour and general condition. This will give you an idea of what your horse's normal vital signs are.

## GUT SOUNDS

The gut sounds that come from your horse's stomach and intestines can be very important information, which your vet uses to diagnose an illness. Gut sounds should always be present. The absence of gut sounds is more indicative of a problem than excessive gut





sounds. Usually, an absence of gut sounds indicates colic. If you don't hear any sounds, contact your veterinarian.

How to check for gut sounds:

Press your ear up against your horse's barrel just behind his last rib. If you hear gurgling noises, he's fine. Be sure to check gut sounds from both sides.

If you do not hear any sounds, try using a stethoscope in the same area.

#### DEHYDRATION

Healthy horses drink a minimum of 20 litres of water per day. If your horse is dehydrated, it is very important that you urge him to drink. If he refuses to drink water, try adding flavour to it (molasses or cordial is ideal), and contact your veterinarian if he still won't drink. During hot, humid conditions horses should drink a lot more. A horse in race training in these conditions may drink up to 70 litres per day. To ensure you have an indication of your horse's water consumption, it may be wise to use buckets instead of waterers if horses are continually stabled.

How to perform a pinch test:

Pinch the skin on your horse's neck. If the skin flattens back into place in less than 1 second when you let go, the horse is fine. If it doesn't, it means he isn't drinking enough water and is dehydrated.

The longer the skin stays pinched up before flattening, the more dehydrated the horse is.

#### CAPILLARY REFILL TIME (CRT)

Capillary Refill Time (CRT) is the time it takes for blood to return to blanched tissues in the gums. This is an indicator of blood circulation. Normal refill time is 1 to 2 seconds.

How to check CRT:

Lift your horse's upper lip up and firmly press your thumb against his gums for 2 seconds to create a white mark. This white mark should return to the normal pink colour within 1-2 seconds after releasing the pressure.

If the CRT takes longer than 2 seconds, the horse may have shock.

#### MUCOUS MEMBRANES

The mucous membranes are the lining of a horse's eyelids, his gums and the inside of his nostrils. The colour of the mucous mem-

branes, are another indicator of blood circulation. A healthy horse's gums are slightly paler than a human. If a horse's gums are very pale, bright red, greyish blue or bright yellow, call a veterinarian immediately.

#### Colour of mucous membranes

Moist Pink: Healthy normal circulation.  
Very Pale Pink: Capillaries contracted, indicates fever, blood loss or anaemia.  
Bright Red: Capillaries enlarged, indicates toxicity or mild shock.  
Grey or Blue: Severe shock, depression and illness.

Bright Yellow: Associated with liver problems

If you witness any signs which may alert you to a problem with your horse. It is always wise to seek the advice of your veterinarian sooner rather than later as the earlier a vet can examine your horse the more time they will have to treat the problem.

For additional advice on the vital signs of your horse or any nutritional advice please contact HY GAIN FEEDS on 1300 HYGAIN



### Stud Update

I travelled to Heather Payne's in February to see Starlight, Steinrochen's recent filly to Aqua. Starlight is an interesting chocolate colour which will no doubt be of interest to us all in the coming months. I will almost bet she turns the stunning liver chestnut colour Aqua was as a youngster that impressed me much so many years ago.



**Pictured: Starlight (l) & Stacia (r)**





Two Haflingers sold recently from Heather Paynes stud, are Marmaduke (Madeline x Marlon), sold to the Hunter to an adoring home, and Madeline to QLD, to a vet who breeds Percherons. Madeline was sold within two hours of being placed on the whats new website, which, with over 1500 hits, has recently been listed on Google.



## Around the States...

### Melbourne Summer Royal

**25 Jan 2009**

Liz and Heather did a breed display at the Summer Royal Melbourne Horse Show in Jan 2009 at Werribee. Again Liz presented Atlas and Marie who were again worthy representatives of our Haflinger breed. I feel it is so important to keep our horses on display as much as possible and we must all be grateful to Liz who put much effort and expense into the two displays.

Champion Led Haflinger—Akley Atlas  
Champion Ridden Haflinger—Arkley Atlas

### Maitland Agricultural Show

**20-22 Feb 2009**

**Report by Todd Shilcock**

The Venticinque family did very well in their first led outing showing four nicely presented horses with Louise Venticinque's mare Oorinda, taking out Champion Led. Oorinda is a big attractive four year old mare and will definitely be one to watch out for in the led classes at upcoming shows.

This was the Venticinque's first show and it was great to see such a good turn out from the whole family. As they get more experience in showing the Venticinque family will become a formidable team and no doubt will make a valuable contribution to the on going success of our beautiful breed.

### Championship Results

Ch Led Stallion/Colt—Winterstolz (J. Venticinque)  
Ch Led Mare—Oorinda (L. Venticinque)  
Ch Led Gelding—Whitlock (K. Venticinque)  
Supreme Led—Oorinda (L. Venticinque)

Supreme Ridden—Araluen (H-R. Shilcock)

### Bathurst Royal 6-8 Mar 2009

Karen Noonan and Louise Muddle competed with three horses in total at this years Bathurst Royal. Louise exhibited in the led Championship with Anzac, three year old gelding (Marsanne x Aaron) for Champion and filly, Miracle, (MonaLisa x Necho) for Reserve. Karen Noonan exhibited Sovereign Nelson for a placing in the led gelding class.

### Newcastle Ag Show Fri 27 Mar 2009

Whitlock and Lady were shown by Katrina and Tanya respectively in the led classes. The championship was won by Whitlock and reserve by Lady. The Friday scheduling of the class was a hindrance to some competitors. Hopefully the classes will be offered again next year.



## NSW Dressage Results

Report by Lyndal Marks-Meenan

Molly competed with Melanie at SIEC for the EFA State Interschools Championships. Lyndal had the fortune of meeting Paul Groves, our AHHBA treasurer, at the event. Paul knew Melanie and was thrilled to see her there.

Molly competed in her age group against about 50 or more kids. She did the prelim 1.2 and came 1st with 64.4%. In the 1.4 she got 68.8 % and came 7th. We are thrilled and so proud. She's been working hard so deserves the success.

Stephanie Groves also had an outstanding day with her WBxTB, Sirocco, placing in a number of classes. Stephanie plans on using experience with this outstanding schoolmaster to train her Haflingers into the future. Stephanie is currently competing in Preliminary level eventing - often against Olympians and professionals and is showing excellent form over jumps, finishing recently

at Scone on her dressage score.



**Molly Riding  
Melanie at EFA  
Interschools  
Dressage**







## Clean Up Australia Day

Karen Silvester and Wilbur are absolutely excelling through their achievements in harness. Karen has much to be proud of and is an inspiration. As a result, there is always something new in Wilbur's repertoire. Most recently Wilbur assisted in Clean Up



Australia Day with thirty-one assistants (pictured). Wilbur pulled a sodden dismembered old blue couch, a couple of rubber tyres, a series of sponge rubber cushions and other smaller bits of rubbish wearing his new collar. There had been 98mm of rain overnight and was required to traverse many big and long puddles, some almost knee deep. This did not faze Wilbur but Karen imagined the load became only heavier as it became more soggy. Lucky for Wilbur the work horse, the slide then became a raft!



## News From QLD

I find it really exciting to hear what is happening interstate so do keep your reports coming. Carrissa reports a busy weekend at Gatton with her paint colt Apache, and Greenbank with both Apache and Antonie her Haflinger in the beginning of March. Carrissa says it was very tiring, but extremely rewarding—and what a prize haul they had. Apache won three championships and Grand Champion Paint Stallion/Colt at Colourama, and Champion Stallion/Colt at Greenbank. Antonie was not at all outshone, winning Champion Haflinger.



Antonie, Champion Haflinger at Greenbank



## WA Report from Marci

We go to the beach a fair bit as Axis just loves swimming, I have attached some pictures from our last adventure it was freezing that day -but he still has no problem getting into the water!!



AHHBA Member, Alf Jungreithmayr Swimming Axis (Marsanne x Aaron). Alf also swims his Haflinger mare Oceania (aka Teno).



## VIC Report From Gill

Gill has sent me a couple of photos, and here is Ambrosia (pictured below) in February, at 16 months, covered in gorgeous dapples. Sounds an absolute delight from all reports.





## Haflinger Virtual Show Rider Classes

### Class 11. Haflinger Ridden by A Child



Latalia & Todd Seconi



Kim Staples & Aspen

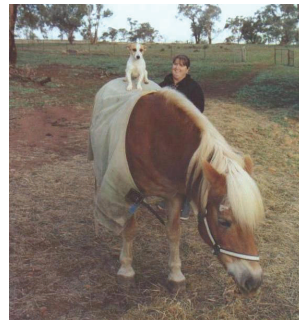


Liz Grant & Arkley Atlas



Rianna & Rider

### Class 13. Versatile Haflinger



Marsanne & Louise Muddle

### Class 12. Haflinger Ridden by An Adult



Antonie & Carrissa Clarke



Antonie & Carrissa Clarke







## Haflinger Virtual Show Novelties



Lataltia and Todd Playing Polocrosse



Vidhi Marshalls' Rianna Jumping Great Heights in New Zealand



Phil Rosetta and Montana

### Class 14. Golden Oldies



Gill Rickard and Nathan At Northside Dressage

### Class 15. Gone But Not Forgotten



Nougat at Castle Hill Show



Schatzl







## Haflinger Virtual Show Liberty Class



*Ancova Albert Makes Friends...*



*Antonie Gives An Opinion*



*Stacia at Speed!*



*Latalia Awaits Her Audience..*



*Neon Hears the Rattle of a Bag...!*



*Come on Schatzl!, Says Miracle*



*Gotta keep buff for my girls says Vidhi's NZ stallion  
Amberg*



*Does Cute  
Count  
Mach?*





## Member Profile

### Greg Venticique

As I spoke with Greg at the Sydney Royal Easter Show it became apparent that although his rising three year old filly, Lady, had just won ribbons in both her ridden and led classes there were other ribbons in the making and more records being broken. Greg owns and rides Haflinger horses, but is also a cattleman. Greg owns the largest herd of Galloways in



**Greg and His Champion Senior Galloway Bull, Minto Lancelot**

Australia, a Scottish breed of cattle—known for their eating quality— his bull Minot Lancelot had just won Senior Champion Galloway Bull.

Showing cattle isn't necessarily as easy as Haflingers, two of Greg's twelve show stock went down with three day sickness at the show, so the anxiety as usual was not with Lady - ridden and prepared by Courtney, a student of Tocal College—and Greg had plenty of time to answer all my questions.



**Courtney and Lady in Mare/Filly Class at the Royal Easter Show**

To understand where the animal husbandry aspiration started, Greg, and his brother Jon, grew up in the outer Sydney suburb of Liverpool, but were always inspired by

their father to show respect toward animals, animal husbandry and life on the land. In a sequence of fortuitous events, their mining

engineering business, SETCO, relocated to the Hunter Valley and the opportunity to realize these values inspired by their father became realistic.

Greg's first property of five acres—which at first seemed large compared with suburbia—gradually grew to one thousand acres and the possibility of having a large group of cattle and horses expanded—and the search began.

Greg and Jon first encountered Haflingers at Tocal through stallion Ambassador. Before long, Greg and Jon owned eight Haflingers, and with the birth of SETCO AZZAR to a total of nine. Greg manages four of these horses, geldings Whitlock and Animation, his riding horse Obsession and filly, Lady. Obsession is now in foal to Aqua—so for now riding her is on hold.

Greg and Cathy have four children, Kristie, Katrina, Tanya and Guy. Katrina and Tanya are both riders and are active founding members of Glen Oak Pony Club. Currently the pony club has fifteen members of all ages and is located on forty acres of land owned by Hunter Water. The girls often ride to fellow pony club members for a weekend sleep-over or trail ride around the district amongst the pink granite mountain tops which illustrate the landscape. While Katrina and Tanya have shown Whitlock and Lady in led classes, they are not yet Haflinger riders. That might be just around the corner...

Greg's son Guy, and trainee Phil aid in the preparation of cattle - a fabulous asset, especially for the planned trip to Royal Melbourne Show later in the year.

While apparently there is nothing better than a nice big medium rare Galloway beefsteak, Greg and Cathy, Jon and Louise all look forward to attending the Haflinger World Show in Ebbs, 2010. Greg's eyes twinkled at the mention of bringing more Haflingers home.







## Boyd Exell Clinic Report



Boyd Exell is a world renowned international carriage driver of Leicester, UK formerly of Bega NSW. Recently, after a win at the World Cup for four in hand in Gothenburg, Sweden, Boyd travelled with family to Shibumi Equestrian Centre in

Bundanoon, NSW for a clinic supported by the EFA Driving Group.

Sheryl & Trevor Liebowitz, driving enthusiasts were kept busy with directing and managing the site on its debut event, the site being absolutely outstanding in every way. Max Pearce acted as able host, appearing also as instructor and competitor on the busy three day school.



### Wilbur, driven by instructor Gary and Karen, in the Splendor of Shibumi Equestrian Centre

With the first opportunity I had to talk with Boyd, I did ask him about his Haflinger connections. His first driving job after leaving Australia, while still a teenager, was in fact with Haflingers at Tudor Oak Farms in the USA. The most notable memory he had was the huge truck that he drove across North America and the beautiful grounds of the stud.

Regardless of the fact that Boyd is now regarded as one of the best four in hand drivers of all time, the clinic was well patronized with over sixty driving enthusiasts and visitors attending the weekend including the show driving school, CDE school, judge refresher, young driver program, fence sitting and Saturday evening entertainment.

Boyd was proven once again to be an incredible instructor extending his wisdom to all driving competencies and age groups. Boyd's lessons were equally rewarding and even exhausting for the fence sitters as the drivers.

Boyd continually posed questions to the audience and showed students absolute patience in getting the desired result. Typically, after a little free warmup Boyd would ask the horses particulars then the audiences opinion of the combination. Boyd would then work through the horses conformation from nose to tail to improve outline, perhaps make modification to gear or fitting, or simply make general praise. For some horses, this involved many changes of bit, others were challenged in different gymnastic approaches to obtain the desired effect.

Many horses were given a drive by Boyd which he thoroughly enjoyed from my observation. At one point the rubber tube tyres were displaced from the carriage of a Shetland—there was always spectacle as Boyd remained the showman.

Karen Silvester had wonderful lessons with Gary Rollans on Saturday and Boyd Exell on Sunday. On Saturday Karen's 15yo gelding, Wilbur, was schooled firstly in a CDE carriage then on the long/double lunge rein.

Wilbur made great impressions as he floated around the round yard in Gary's experienced hands. Gary is off to Europe very soon driving in Denmark and then Poland. We wish him well over our winter here, and will welcome him back over summer in Australia.



### Wilbur Working on the Shibumi Main Outdoor Driving Arena

Saturday night culminated in the Indoor Driving Spectacular, featured Boyd Exell driving a team of greys. The obstathon (two marathon obstacles & cones) in the indoor arena under lights was eventful with two incidents as Boyd pushed





the harness and horses to the limit. The team, brought together solely for Boyd's use, had only a dozen drives in preparation. Boyd drive against nine other drivers against the clock, and although I am uncertain who made the best time, Boyd definitely had us all on the edge of our seats.



**Gary working Wilbur on the Long Rein (Check out the overtrack!)**

On Sunday, Karens lesson with Boyd was fabulous—one of the most interesting moments was an examination of the impact of the inside and outside rein. Which is the more important? Why? Boyd surmised: The inside rein influences flexion and the outside: bend, speed and collection—the outside rein is therefore far more important than the inside.

Wilbur has a habit of falling in to the right and with Sheryl driving one rein, and Karen the other they had Wilbur moving straight and through confidently in no time at all.



**Stud Book in Review**

The number of mare and stallion lines available in Australia is growing but seldom do we have such a variety at regional shows as was demonstrated at the Castle Hill Agricultural Show on 22nd March this year.

Young colt, Winterstolz, and gelding Nearco were awarded champion and reserve champion led Haflingers respectively.

Winterstolz is a two year old colt sired by Winterstorm (Wintersun (imp) x Oolala) out of Ria (imp), owned by the Venticinque family. Winterstolz is now in full swing of his show career, demonstrating outstanding temperament and maturity, and total adaptability in every way.

Nearco, by Nabucco (exp Japan) and out of Oolala is a six year old gelding that has now reached maturity and with this many sashes to the delight of Pat and his pit crew.

Venticinque's mare Oorinda headed it off with Har-

mony (Heidi x Necho) for first place in the mare class. Oorinda, out of Oolala, classified strongly last September and her maturity, confidence and presence was without doubt a major impact on the judges decision.

Young Harmony demonstrated the athleticism of her sire Necho coupled with grandsire, Afghan II through dam Heidi—she simply floated around the ring, but not quite well enough on her debut outing the older mare.

In the gelding class, Nearco outshone Aspen (Marsanne x Aaron ) and Araluen (Latina x Ambassador) and went on to win Reserve Champion Led Haflinger against Oorinda.

The placings for ridden geldings were reversed in the ridden championship with Araluen ridden by Hannah-Rose achieving Champion and Aspen Reserve Champion.

Amongst the six horses, each of the prominent stallion lines were represented (Admiral/Aaron, Alpine/Ambassador, Wintersun, Necho/Nabucco) and mare lines in the first generation we certainly had a few through Oolala, Marsanne, Heidi, Latina & Ria).



L to R: Aspen (K.Staples), Oorinda (L. Venticinque), Araluen (H-R. Shilcock), Harmony (K. Woodward) and Nearco



**Impressions**

**Report by Todd Shilcock**

There is a crusty old bloke at Tocal who controls the heavy horses and looks after the yearlings. He wouldn't let Hannah-Rose board Louie (pictured) at Tocal and reckons that "Haflingers are not real horses" and "they are only half a horse" that sort of thing. I approached the principal and he overrode







this guy and let Louie board there. Bob has hated Rosie ever since and it culminated a week or so ago when he said that it was worth her coming to work the heavy horses because girls aren't good enough. He would let a complete novice work the horses but not Rosie and the irony was that Rosie and Louie were helping some of these same novices with their showing.

Last Monday I had a call from the secretary of Gresford show society asking for Hannah-Rose. She was at Tocal but he said he was calling in response to her enquiry about whether she could show Louie in the "Other Heavy Horse Breed" Class at the show on Saturday. He said she could.

I wasn't really interested in going to the show and when I phoned her and asked why she wanted to go to the show she replied that Bob was showing his Clydesdale there and she wanted to go and have a crack at beating him. Fair enough I thought.

#### **The day:**

We showed up at Gresford and the Clydesdales were up first. There were six horses in the class and Bob's horse got reserve but not before the judge dressed him down for his bad presentation. He said the horse should have been champion and said he must put more effort if he is going to show Clydesdales.

The other heavy breeds were up next and consisted of six Shires, a Welsh Cob and a lone Haflinger. Two of the Shires, a black pair, were immaculately turned out with ribbons plaited through their manes, the whole nine yards.

Results were:

**Haflinger:** Champion other Heavy breed.

**Haflinger:** Third in overall heavy horse presentation behind the pair of shires.

The judge absolutely loved Louie and what was particularly pleasing he loved him for the same reason I do. Unfortunately, they are the same reasons which mean he is not a particularly good example of a Haflinger, but I felt vindicated in my choice of him when I heard the judge's critique of Louie.

Rosie draped the two broad ribbons around Louie's neck and cheekily rode up to Bob and said "Not bad for half a horse"

She rode if a few other events but only managed a reserve champion in the Show Hunter Hack class but being a young horse, Louie was a bit past it by then and didn't want to play in the rider classes.

It was a great day for Rosie because a lot of her mates from Tocal were at the show and they got

to see how well she does with Louie but it was topped off as we were walking back to the float at the end of the day.

There was a ring of cars parked around one side of the arena watching the horse events and as we walked past one of the cars a middle aged woman jumped up from her chair in front of a car and ran up to Louie.

She exclaimed "Is that a Haflinger?" Hannah-Rose replied he was indeed a Haflinger.

The woman replied "I saw them in books when I was a girl and I always loved them but this is the first time I have ever seen one in real life." The look of sheer delight on this woman's face was priceless. Louie wasn't at his best by then but it didn't matter to this woman, she was just overwhelmed to see him.

Sometime when you are wondering why you are persevering with a troublesome Haflinger remember that story. They really are delightful horses.

#### **Wintersun Annual Memorial Award for 2008/9** commenced in September 08.

Please submit your entries to the promotions officer. Ten points will be awarded per horse for each event participated in, with the exception of club membership, where 30 points will be allocated annually. More information is available at [www.ahhba.pbwiki.com](http://www.ahhba.pbwiki.com)

#### **Congratulations to New Members**—We

welcome seven new members into AHHBA with this edition including those in NSW, VIC & WA. Send in your stories, jokes or pictures and be published in our newsletter in April, September and December. Congratulations also to Phil and Kerrie Rosetta with the purchase of Reflections, a beautiful mare who is bound to give much joy.

#### **Revisions to pbwiki**—Ongoing review occurs to our pbwiki, now also accessible from address [www.ahhba.pbworks.com](http://www.ahhba.pbworks.com).

The change in site name for your records appears unnecessary however there have been some problems experienced accessing the 'What's New' from the static page. This will be addressed in the near future. A benefit of this name change is our listing of the 'What's New' through Google.

