



Welcome to the β -Newsletter of the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc

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MHAA® Strong and getting stronger now leading the way as the FIRST and ONLY exclusive Miniature / Small Horse Registry, proudly in our 32nd year servicing the needs of Members around Australia and beyond !

Dear Members,

As we said in our last E- News, the events of the past couple of years have impacted our lives in ways that none of us could ever have imagined and our lives are still being turned upside down with the prolonged and ongoing effects of the COVID-19 global Pandemic that has seen us forced into continued lockdowns, isolation, social distancing and the stress of not knowing when, if ever, we will be free of this Pandemic. SA and Victoria are just out of lockdown, some of NSW is still in lockdown, with no date set to lift lockdown order and now areas of Qld put in a snap lockdown, with restrictions still in place in most States of Australia.

Due to the continued lockdown and difficulties with restrictions that many of our Members are living with at the present time and the number of Members who have contacted us with regards their Membership Renewal and submitting Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Returns) on time. We have decided that extraordinary times calls for extraordinary measures and for this reason, **this year we will accept Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Returns) up until 31 August, 2021** and the same applies to Membership Renewals.

As advised in our last E-News, we offered those Members who renewed their Membership on or before 1 August, the opportunity to enter a draw to have half of their Membership paid in the following year which has always been popular with Members. **However, this offer is now being amended, so that all Members whose renewal is received in the office by 31st August, will go in for a draw, with 6 Membership draws from all Membership categories combined and 4 Membership draws from Youth Memberships; those whose Member number is drawn out, will only have to pay half their Membership Fee next year.** Those Members who were lucky enough to have their Membership number drawn out last year have been notified.

Thankyou to the Members who have already renewed their Membership and of course they will be included in this draw.

It is also timely to remind Members that Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Returns) MUST be printed in LANDSCAPE format, NOT portrait format. Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Returns) submitted in portrait format will not be accepted and will be returned. The Report can be filled in online and then printed off in landscape to post to the office. If you are unsure about this, or having difficulties regarding posting your Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Return) please do not hesitate to contact the National Secretary or email admin@mhaa.com.au

With regard to your Stallion Breeding Reports (Stallion Returns): always remember to include all outside Mares, as well as every Mare served, even if they are not registered MHAA® and remember to keep a copy for your records. A Tax Invoice/Receipt is always sent from the office on receipt of your Stallion Breeding Report (Stallion Return). If you do not receive one within a month of posting your Return, contact the National Secretary or email the admin@mhaa.com.au to make sure it has been received.

It is also timely to remind Members that if your Mare has been served by another Member's Stallion, or you purchased a Mare in Foal, make sure that you get a Service Certificate from the Stallion owner to cover the mating. This will ensure that you can register the resultant Foal when it's born, even if the Stallion owner forgets to put the mating on their Stallion Breeding Report (Stallion Return).

Sent with this E-News is a Membership Renewal Form that can be used irrespective of how you wish to pay for your Renewal. If you are paying via EFT or credit card, all you need to do is simply email the completed Membership Form to admin@mhaa.com.au If you are paying via Cheque or Money Order, the Membership Renewal Form needs to be posted to the office with the payment.

With regard to Membership Renewals, in unprecedented times like these, your continued support is extremely important in maintaining the Association, which, as a Not For Profit Member based organization, needs your support and commitment as a Member, as this is vital to assist the Association in remaining strong and financially viable into the future.

The Association relies heavily on revenue from Memberships to assist with the day to day expenses associated with running the Association, including, but not limited to, general office and running expenses, Insurance, payment of Government Taxes, with relation to GST etc, as well as any Government Statutory Fees; all of which have to be paid to maintain the efficient running of the Association, irrespective if we are having Shows and/or promotional events, or not.

Therefore, the Association really needs Member support in renewing their Membership during this Pandemic and to be completely honest, the future of the Association depends on Member support at this time.

We have had some Members make the comment that it's not worth renewing their Membership if there are no Shows to go to and I have reminded them that if they are not current financial Members, any Horse/s that they own and have registered in their name, do not have current MHAA® registration.

Also confirming that as National Committee want to continue to relieve as much stress as we can for Members, we are allowing ALL Members to measure their own Horse/s that need to be upgraded and/or registered; at this stage, this procedure will be in place indefinitely; so all Members need to do is send the necessary paperwork to the office and it will be processed in the normal way. Going by feedback from Members that we have received, this has been appreciated and enabled Members to keep their registrations up to date.

State Promotional Group Committee Nomination Forms are being emailed to those Members in States that are eligible; please consider nominating for one of the positions that are available, so that we can get some Shows, or Classes at Shows organized when it is safe to do so. If you don't wish to go on a Committee, but are willing to assist with Shows, or getting Classes at Show, please consider this, as we would like to get more Shows or Classes at Shows in different areas so that Members in different areas are able to Show. If anyone knows any Groups, or Ag Shows that have Miniature and Small Horse Classes please let us know, as MHAA® would consider sponsorship of these Classes, with a view to getting more Classes on for Members.

AGM: With the current situation with regards travel restrictions and State lockdowns, which can be called without much notice, we will be holding our AGM via zoom again this year and when we have set a date for our AGM, Members will be advised.

If any Member has any query about anything in the E-News, or about anything else, please contact the National Committee via email admin@mhaa.com.au We are here to support Members as much as we can and if you have any issues that you believe we could help you with, please don't hesitate to contact Barb Voysey, National Secretary via email admin@mhaa.com.au

National Committee hope you and your Families are all coping in a very different world ... remember, we are still all in this together ... so need to look out for each other and keep in touch with Family and Friends and support them through these difficult periods; particularly if they live on their own and / or in a different State.

Now more than ever we need to comply with State lockdowns and restrictions ... so please ... TAKE EXTRA CARE & STAY COVID SAFE ... our thoughts are with you all and remember that by being apart today ... we can be together tomorrow and beyond !

***National Committee of Management
Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc***

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