

NATIONAL FINALS!

All the senior results and we hear from the Winners themselves!

AFFILIATES CORNER

Chatting with our friends at NBS in Gympie, Queensland!

RULE UPDATES

Keep up to date on the changes to the ABHA rules.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to all of our affiliates, members and valued sponsors. The Australian Barrel Horse Assoc. Inc. welcomes you all to another year of barrel racing competition. With a new year and new goals in the forefront of everyone's mind, It is in fact a perfect time to reflect on the 2023 National Finals and those winning runs and great stories from the champions. Record numbers of hard-working affiliates around Australia are adding events to the last half of our finals qualifying year. The time has never been better to hatch your plans to make it to the ABHA National Finals in 2024.

It is a known fact that nothing is more important to a barrel racer than ground, we shrugged off the good old barrel racer jokes

knowing full well that a successful finals for the ABHA had to come from the ground up literally. With the safety of our pilots and their equine athletes being paramount and the AELEC about to be set on fire with fast horses, Matt Burns (ABHA President) and his experienced ground crew had made it their business to ensure the ground was the best it could possibly be.

The plan was to use a mix of old fashion observation and experience, complimented by the use of modern tools and machinery to get it right. The job started with accessing the clay content of the surface. The reason for this is the more clay content less moisture and less clay more moisture. The depth of the surface was 210mm we determined that the surface

combined with the depth that a moisture content of 28% provided the best footing for the horses. Our goal being that every competitor from the first runner till the final competitor that came down the alley would compete on the same surface over the four days of competition. Evaluating the surface in the old fashion way, kicking the ground, running the dirt through your fingers, and then using modern technology such as a moisture meter which became the ground crews' best friend over the course of the finals.

The decision was to regroom the surface and check moisture levels every 25 runners, should the moisture need topping up the water truck

was brought in. It was a tricky task for the ground crew to keep the surface fast and safe over four days of competition, but once the magic recipe was established for a fast, safe track through compaction and moisture it was their job to keep it that way.

Hats off to our ground crew, who all did an outstanding job, there were some cracking fast times as the horses and competitor's confidence in the ground increased, the times lowered. In the Maturity, the competitors were just throwing everything at it and going "hell for leather", with some fierce competition and fast times through to the end of the four day program.

ALL THE JUNIOR/POLE BENDING RESULTS FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

ABHA NATIONAL *Finals 2023*

CIRCLE L OPEN DIVISIONAL WINNER PROFILES & PLACE GETTERS

First Division Champions

- 1ST** Brianna Learmonth, Kootingal NSW and Peptos Smokin Morn
- 2ND** Brittany McVicar, Maldon, VIC and Full Throttle Ta Fame
- 3RD** Cherie Donoghue, Bendigo VIC and Branchvale Catalyst
- 4TH** Dameeka Simmons, Roma QLD and Tazzy

Horse: Peptos Smokin Morn

Stable Name: Smokin

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 20kms

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

"Smokin was purchased by my parents as a weanling and I started competing on him during his Futurity years. I then bought Smokin and have been competing with him for over 10 years."

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

"Winning, especially at big events such as this, means so much because we get to show off how amazing the horses we get to compete on are. The amount of effort that

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

goes into breeding, training and competing are validated by successes such as these.”

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

“My goal for each year is to always try and improve upon myself as much as possible and make sure my horses are as sound and happy as possible.”

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

“Being able to see and compete against the best competitors from all over the country is always a highlight of the year, especially when the ABHA put so much effort into making sure they have the safest and fastest ground possible.”

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

“My biggest support team has always been my parents. I wouldn't have been able to achieve nearly as much as I have without them helping me over the years.”



THE COWBOY BRAND

CIRCLE L
AUSTRALIA

ACROSS 3 GREAT LOCATIONS
TOOWOOMBA • TAMWORTH • TOWNSVILLE

Two riders on horses are shown in a desert landscape. The rider on the left is a woman wearing a grey jacket and a cowboy hat, riding a dark brown horse. The rider on the right is a man wearing a plaid shirt and a cowboy hat, riding a brown horse. The background consists of dry, rocky terrain under a clear sky.

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Second Division Champions

- 1ST Tammy Cooper, Glen Oak NSW and Aly
2ND Maddi Edwards, Kootingal NSW and Coldplay
3RD Lauren Smith, Moonbi NSW and KPM Blue Eyed Switch
4TH Sarah MacCronan, Gracemere QLD and Belle

Horse: Shesaboomnhayday

Stable Name: Aly

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 480kms

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

"I have had Aly out and about for approximately 18 months prior to the finals, getting her used to competing."

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

"This win meant so much to me as I've bred and trained this beautiful mare, such a rewarding win."

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

"I would like to concentrate on her last futurity year and to also more outings for Aly's full brother and hopefully have him competitive by 2025."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

"Everything, this included catching up with seeing friends that you don't get time to catch up with often enough."

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so, who does this consist of?

My wonderful husband who happily supports me to no end, I honestly could not do without him.



Third Division Champions

- 1ST Tayla Jackson, Aramac QLD and Peppy's Painted Sky
2ND Shellie Miller, Warwick QLD and Glenview Deltas Roc N
3RD Kaesha Crawley, Yass NSW and Blue Jeans
4TH Martina Smith, Plainland QLD and Ima Jackrabbit

Horse: Peppys Gossip

Stable Name: Gossip

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 1,278kms

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

“6 1/2 months before the ABHA finals”

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

“Personally, it was a current career highlight for myself. I honestly go out to have fun every run and to take out a division was just even more special for myself. I revolved my entire year on the goal of just making it down to the national finals for my first time. There were a lot of setbacks and moments leading up to the finals that a couple of times it looked like we wouldn't be able to make the trip down so the win just made it all worth it. “

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

“My goals for 2024 is to work on my team of younger horses to get them ready for competitions in the future. I am excited to hopefully have some futurity horses to bring down to the finals in the future when they are ready, but for now it's all about learning and having fun.”

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

“So many things, for starters the atmosphere was an unreal experience to me as it was my first time competing at the finals. Meeting new people from right across the country and making new connections/friends in the industry. Seeing some of the best barrel racing horses and up and coming futurity horses, also the focus on the breeding side such as the stallion incentive and hearing about the breeding of the horses there has helped me grow an eagerness to look into it more and suit some of my long-term goals.”

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

“My support team consists of my husband, mum, and my friends. One of my biggest supporters for 2023 was my friend Joelene. Without her I would not have had the opportunity to ride Gossip as she came to me at the start of the year and asked if I would like to take her on as a second horse. My mum travelled all the way with me to Tamworth as my travel buddy and support crew despite only just recovering from a knee replacement not long before the finals. My husband Sam who supports my crazy barrel racing dreams and tells me, “Well just go ahead and do it who cares what anyone else thinks. Also, I am very lucky to have a fantastic sponsor, Suzie at Jaralea Western Show Attire. She keeps me always looking amazing and I cannot wait to represent her in 2024!”



ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Fourth Division Champions

- 1ST** Katrina Christoff, Moonbi NSW and Destiny
- 2ND** Karen Harris, Gilgandra NSW and Little Bid O Go
- 3RD** Katina Mathews, Tamworth NSW and Frankie
- 4TH** Savannah Halley, Warwick QLD and Fay

Horse: Mile High

Stable Name: Destiny

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 25kms

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

"I have been competing on Destiny for about 7 years leading up to 2023 ABHA Finals."

Q: "What did this win personally mean for you?"

"I have put a lot of time and hard work in to this mare over the years and Destiny is horse the whole family rides. We have all won and achieved goals riding this mare, this win personally meant a lot to me as it was my first ever Trophy saddle."

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

"My goal is to complete again this year at the ABHA finals and to try make the top 50 this year."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

"I love attending the ABHA finals as it is a great run event, the atmosphere is amazing and the competition is fierce."

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

"I have a small team of horses that I will be running this year consisting of Destiny, Sprocket and my younger mare Gucci."



Fifth Division Champions

- 1ST** Kayla Hausfeld, Werris Creek NSW and Nacho
- 2ND** Ayda Labuschewski, Biloela QLD and Cat Dee Nine
- 3RD** Alicia Anderson, Mudgee NSW and Big Valley White Dove
- 4TH** Casey O'Dempsey Moree, NSW and Delta

Horse: MCV Star Cat

Stable Name: Nacho

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 45kms

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

"I purchased Nacho on Mothers Day 2016, Nacho then spent 6 years in feedlots, droving & contract mustering. Nacho and I have been competing since 2018, mostly campdrafting, but started doing a few local barrel races in 2021."

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

"The win was a huge surprise, I think I am still in shock really. Nacho and I have worked hard on trying to be more consistent in the 2023 season, we attended 13 barrel races for the year with 8 2D / 3D cheques, so although divisional barrel racing is a lottery, I think we can tick off 'being more consistent'."

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

"My goals for this year will be to keep myself fitter to allow me to be a more balanced rider, to try to add speed to our consistency and to enjoy being able to compete."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

"I love being able to catch up with old friends, and the whole vibe at the finals is a complete high. We thoroughly enjoy watching the Fast 50 on the Friday Night. Living so close to the Aelec we didn't camp this year but we definitely missed the social environment, and look forward to camping and making a week of it this year."

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

"I'd be here all day if I had to name everyone, but I am truly grateful for all of the people in my corner. My daughter Paisley is probably my biggest fan and I love that we get to do this all

together. But just to thank a few, My mum has always been behind us, My great friends Angie, Tammie, Britt, Chloe who are my biggest support, the ones who are happy to see you win, the ones who video your runs, who push you to do better and always there to offer advice, not to mention my fellow committee members of Liverpool Plains Barrel Racing."



Sixth Division Champions

- 1ST Jodie Jackson, Bundaberg QLD and Lealukas Dusty
- 2ND Renee Pearson Eudunda, NSW and Moses
- 3RD Mia Anastasi, Moonbi NSW and Tes
- 4TH Catrina Cruickshank, Putty NSW and Juicy

Horse: Lealukas Dusty

Stable Name: Kruz

Kilometres travelled to the Finals:
898kms one way

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

"It was an absolute dream since 2022 when my 2 girls wanted to do ABHA National finals, I was not riding at this stage I had given up riding for the previous 5 years to be my girls full support team with my husband. I sat in the grandstand and thought what an incredible privilege this would be. I never even thought it would be possible at 52 years old I thought I was past the age to start. I started riding again at the beginning of 2023 on the insistence of my girls and husband, they wanted me to have the joy and no longer needed me full time on the ground, I have never barrel raced before 2023 was my first year doing divisional."

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024 ?

"I want to continue to be the best I can for myself and my horse and with the support I've had age is only a number, as is with my girls my goal this year is to continue with divisional barrels and to return to Tamworth ABHA National Finals again."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

"EVERYTHING, honestly where do you start? The riders are so friendly some could tell how nervous I was and even though they didn't know me, they would come up and talk to me telling just have to fun, every run I felt the full support of the riders, The team running the gates were absolutely amazing helpful friendly encouraging, the announcers event if they didn't know who you were always had something to say over the mic that made me feel important, everyone congratulates you on your way out, the facilities are just so incredible there's everything you could ever want and more, the sponsors wow, the committee are always so dam busy run off their feet but always helpful and courteous in every way

nothing is too much bother the whole experience is the best ever."

Q: Do you have a support team, if so who does this consist of?

"If it wasn't for my 2 daughters (Ashlee and Haylie) and my Husband (Kerry) I don't think I would have started riding again, they have given me all the support I could ever ask for, my girls and Kerry are my biggest fans and no matter how good or bad I do they are there 110% every time. I am also very lucky to have a wonderful support team of friends at home, very blessed."



ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Seventh Division Champions

1ST Kerri Badior, Singleton NSW and Colours

2ND Tarni Caine and Smoke On The Rocs

3RD Ruby Ruckwood and Outlaw

4TH Tierney Jasper, Melbourne VIC and Houston

Horse: Rockin Acres

Stable Name: Colours

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 160kms

Q: How long had you and your divisional winning horse been competing together?

"Myself and Colours have been competing together for approximately 18 months."

Q: What did this win personally mean for you?

"It was a huge privilege to win a saddle on a horse I trained after being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis 2 years ago."



Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024?

"My goals are to continue competing with colours and my other horses and just to get them stepping up a little but mostly just to enjoy the journey."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

"Spending time with all the amazing and supportive friends and family."

Q: Do you have a support team, if so who does this consist of?

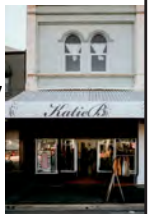
"I have an amazing group of family and friends that have supported me throughout everything and continue to do so."

Katie B

www.katieb.com.au



Katie B was established in 2010 and is based in the Central Queensland town of Rockhampton. Kate is proud to now stock Australia's largest range of Cowgirl Tuff, Kimes Ranch, CC Company and Rock & Roll Cowgirl!



128 William Street Rockhampton



ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

KATIE B FUTURITY

First Division

1ST Nichole Fitzpatrick, Willow Tree NSW and Glenore Just In Time

2ND Brittany McVicar, Maldon VIC and Morns Whispering Pepto

3RD Jessica Hone, Tamworth NSW and Sweet Fortune N Fame

4TH Dusty McPhee, Lurg VIC and Jack

Horse: Glenore Just in Time

Stable Name: JT

Kilometres travelled to the Finals: 73kms

Q: You won the coveted Katie B Futurity Champion at the 23 finals with two breath taking runs on JT and another filly, Glenore Golden Flame in the Futurity who also performed nicely, tell us about these two horses?

"I only entered these two in the futurity, as they both only had limited outings had only had his first open Ladies Barrel Racing Feb 2023 due to the sale of JJ. I felt my horses didn't need four runs over four days, as they hadn't had enough round under their belt and I did not want to push harder for an extra two runs as they were both only five year olds at the time and have another futurity year ahead of them. My focus was just to make each run and see what happens and of he handled it well. I think the day off for young ones is much better for their minds. I only live one hour down the road from AELEC, so I travelled them in each day."

Q: You bred Glenore Just In Time? What did this mean to you and does this horse have a special spot in Nichole Fitzpatrick's stable?

"Yes JT is out of my good mare, Just A Busy Cat. Justa actually won 2 x ABHA Finals

championships so to be back on one of her babies and have this win in the futurity sure means a lot to us."

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA Finals?

"Getting to showcase and run my babies with a great surface was really good, winning was just a bonus."

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

"My family are my support team, Scott is my back bone with all the horses but I also have a great team of sponsors that support my journey year after year."

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024 and Glenore Just in Time?

"Continue to season him and see what the future holds for him."





ABHA NATIONAL

Finals 2023

Second Division

1ST Sara Eagle, Comet QLD and Morrison

2ND Ella Prow, Blackall QLD and Sheza Rare Pepto

3RD Jodi Kilmartin, Nyngan NSW and Osterly Cat O'Lena

4TH Maree Prow, Blackall QLD and Miracle Rocin Pep

Horse: Customised Morrison (pending)

Stable Name: Morrison

Kilometres travelled to the Finals:
2300kms round trip

Q: How long have you and you and Morrison been competing together?

“Morrison is a home bred horse, by my parents Stallion Customised Cash out of a mare called Fire Phang (Miss Leo toe/Judges Pal Mare) who was purchased as a yearling and has been with us since. My parents bred him and as a 2yr old green broke he was given to us. We finished breaking him in and then continued his training mainly in the rope pen. It wasn't till the start of 2023 that he began working on the pattern.”

Q: What did this win mean personally for you?

“Personally for me it was a huge achievement to get a horse with limited drum work to such a level, where he would be competitive on a national scale. We have had a very interesting history together (to say the least) and have built a relationship over the years that has lead us to this success. It was an amazing feeling to come out on the little horse that no one thought would ever amount to much and do so well. His beginning wasn't the best and along side some amazing dentists, chiros and vets we have managed to create a competitive barrel horse, with a huge heart.”

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

“Nothing compares to the atmosphere at Tamworth ALEC, driving into such a great facility and seeing all the Barrel Racers together in one spot makes you rise a level in your riding. The people I have meet this year has been such a blessing and I am so grateful for all of them as we would not have made it there without them all. The great facilities and opportunities to watch the best of the best is my highlight every year.”

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so who does this consist of?

“I certainly do, my husband and kids are always by my side cheering me on and helping me at home prep horses and train. My husband is not only my rock but my farrier too, he is very good at what he does, and I owe the 100% soundness of my horses to him. Outside that I have my parents that help me along the way with horses and support me at events and my close friends that are always there to help with advice and challenges along the way. Also, couldn't do it without my amazing sponsors there not only there for me in the arena but outside the arena. I've found friendships to last a lifetime, and I am so grateful for the possibilities they have given me.”

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024 and Morrison's?

“We have had a little set back this year, with Morrison sustaining an injury to his leg while he was on break over Christmas so, the first half of this season will be getting him healed up and feeling better. In the meantime, I have Seductive V8 my maturity horse stepping up to fill his spot and several young horses I hope to get going to bring to this year's Tamworth Finals. My main goal being getting my young horses going and heading to Tamworth for our 3rd year in a row and bringing my husband and kids too.”

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Special thanks: As many know I had some truck issues getting to Tamworth, I would like to thank all those that helped us along the way, from towing our truck from the middle of nowhere, to lending cars for us to get around Tamworth in. The mechanics, auto electricians, random people who pulled up and showed us somewhere safe to stay. Those who provided a cooked dinner when we couldn't get anywhere to buy food and those who assisted with horse feed delivery, so our amazing horses didn't have to go without. The amazing people that put me and the horses up for the week after finals while I waited for my truck to be fixed. Lastly my travel partner, who provided a shoulder to cry on and a listening ear to hear my worries. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. A reminder to everyone, no matter the drama you're in there is always another way or someone willing to help. And if you see someone struggling or asking for help, do something, anything to help. Sometimes it's the little things that can be the best thing to happen to someone after so much goes wrong. Thank you everyone.



2023 SEVEN SADDLES MATURITY WINNERS & PLACE GETTERS

- 1ST Brittany McVicar, Maldon VIC and Seductive Acres
- 2ND Adele Edwards, Gundagai NSW and Seductress
- 3RD Bianca Canham, Tamworth NSW and Running Red Lights
- 4TH Cherie O'Donoghue, Bendigo VIC and Branchvale Catalyst

Horse: Seductive Acres

Stable Name: Poppy

Kilometres travelled to the Finals:
2300kms round trip

Q: How long have you and you and Poppy been competing together?

"Poppy is owned and trained by Pat & Lyn Collins. I have been truly fortunate to have her in my team mid 2022. She is aggressive in a run and one of the fastest turning horses I have been fortunate enough to ride. Her and Epic are quite similar to run, they are both so gritty quick footed and aggressive in the turns so that makes it a little easier to step between the two."

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

Q: What did this win mean personally for you?

“Poppy won the ABHA Futurity in 2022 and it felt incredible to her back it up in the Maturity and to have run the fastest time of the finals just blew me away”.

Q: What did you enjoy most about attending the 2023 ABHA National Finals?

“I love coming to the ABHA Finals every year. It’s the best week of the year! It just gets better and better every year, such an incredible event that the committee put together. The committee does the most amazing job with the ground and the horses just have so much confidence running in there, it is truly the best feeling.”

Q: What are your goals with competing in 2024 and tell us a bit about the other horses you have in your string who performed so well at the finals?

“For 2024 I’ll be working on having the same team and one other futurity horse qualified for the 2024 ABHA Finals. The 2023 ABHA Finals will be hard to top but I will be working hard to improve on this year’s result”.

Q: Tell us a little about your other two well performed horses from the ABHA Finals 2023?

“Full Throttle to Fame (Epic), is a 10year old Seconds TA Fame mare. Epic pretty well runs the place, she’s the boss for sure and knows it. She is super gritty and gives everything in a run. She is only 14.2hands but doesn’t let it hold her back. She took to barrel racing very quickly and is so fun to run. Epic was bred by a sire from a Spinifex mare known as Kelly, our family had borrowed from the McCarthy’s and I gladly won a service fee to Seconds Ta Fame donated by the Mathews Family, with the resulting Epic.”

“Morns Whispering Pepto aka Chaos – is a 6yr

old Flashy Pepto gelding bred Mathea Usher. My mum Helen purchased him as a yearling and he’s been in my team for the last couple of years. He is 16.1h and terrified of everything! His fears included barrels. He definitely grew into his name. He does have a lot of try and does just want to please you, so despite it all he has been fun to bring along.”

Q: Do you have a competition support team, if so, who does this consist of?

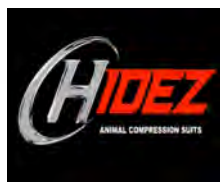
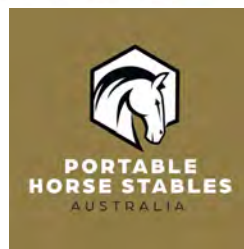
“I am so lucky to have so much support in my family. My mum and dad and partner Toby are always behind me and I feel I would not have achieved anything without their help. Pat and Lyn Collins I can also not thank enough for the opportunity to jockey their great mare Poppy.”



**ALL THE JUNIOR/POLE BENDING
RESULTS FEATURED IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE!**

ABHA NATIONAL Finals 2023

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



AFFILIATES CORNER

Nestled in the Gympie Region of Queensland is the small, relaxed country town of Kilkivan which sports a gem of complex including an indoor arena. It was the brainchild of Bobbi-Jo Clem to utilise this great venue. NBS included the campdraft arena in the hire to run a big dollar feature event, a Pendleton size Barrel Race and a divisional programme in the indoor.

Understanding how Bobbie managed to produce this mega event under an affiliate we all now known as NBS is a story that had to be told. Bobbi-Jo Clem, the producer of NBS has always loved watching the excitement of the Pendleton Barrel Racing in the United States. If you have never watched it, YouTube it and have a look at the huge course, where the competitors gallop across the grass arena and rate off to turn drums placed on a dirt running track around the perimeter of the oval.

As it is a unique and challenging course, she had always wanted to run a barrel race in Australia that would mimic this size course. Over time contact had been made to see if any other club or association would be interested in taking up the idea and including it in an event.

The consensus was that it would be too hard and could not see that it would draw any interest. The thought was always there, so she rallied to find a few people that believed in her crazy dream and carefully chose people that had certain skill sets who might be just interested enough to come along for the ride. The small band wanted to give serious dollars back to competitors, promote their sponsors and do it all with a positive attitude. NBS wanted to draw people together for a fun weekend where they could enjoy their horses and spend time

connecting with friends.

NBS is structured as an incorporated association, as to be eligible for grants etc to help stage your event it has become very important and is a "not for profit club".

The club consists of three main people and then around another eight from Victoria and New South Wales who play a major part in producing the event. Bobbi-Jo's family are a great support to her, with a supportive and hard-working husband behind the scenes and of course and caring for two young daughters can be a bit of juggle to get the job done. Bobbi's mum has been a great sounding board also as she has helped with a lot of different horse events over the years, so her wisdom and insight has been appreciated.

The committee believe that the success of the event was due to keeping their focus on giving maximum dollars to our competitors, with a higher percentage of add back and doing things a little differently by not including buckles and trophies.

They worked with the concept that currently times are tough for many people so actual dollars would help people get down the road to their next event, buckles are lovely,



NBS Committee (left to right): Shinaya Rose-Humphreys, Bobbi-Jo Clem, Clinton Clem with little Lacey-Ann Clem, Addison Sandy, Julie Sandy, Margie Atkinson. Absent: Matt Burns, Chris & Sam Veronica, Ashleigh Remington.

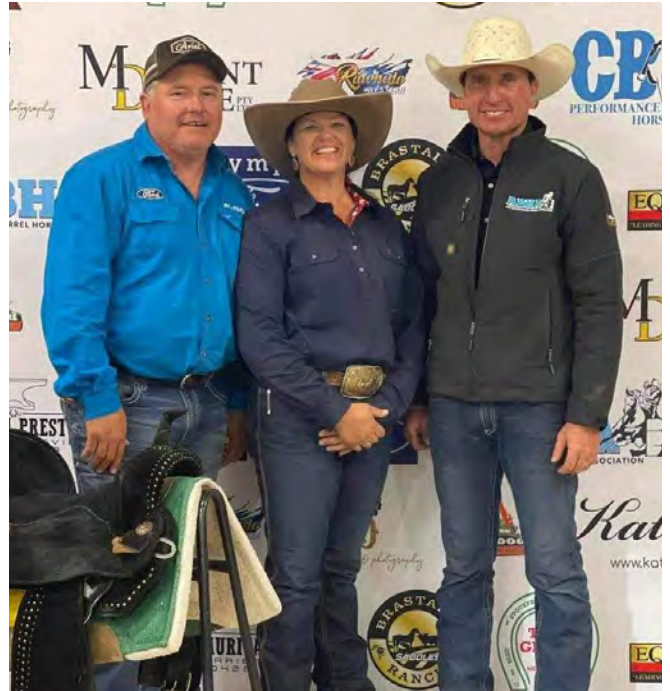
but they don't put fuel in the tank or pay for horse feed.

Not many people will realise that NBS stands for "no bull s\$%t", this was something that served as a reminder not to invest time in the negative. The committee took the stance that if people were wanting to change something, if it was not for the betterment of the weekend and it possibly did not suit them personally, quite simply their answer was, "don't enter". It was important to have a set of clear rules for the event, this way everyone knew where they stood for the weekend.

NBS received some great sponsorship and partners who helped get their show off the ground and given the struggles that businesses have had to cope with over the past few years the committee remain very thankful of their backing and to anyone that came onboard and helped in any way.

Gympie Ford were first to come on board with a high dollar sponsorship partnership which enabled NBS to begin their promotions of the event.

Bobbi-Jo and the NBS team, said they tried their darndest to ensure there was plenty of camping areas, food vans and a great



(left to right): ABHA President - Matt Burns, NBS Promoter - Bobbi-Jo Clem, Gympie Ford Principle (Valued Sponsor) - Duncan Cooper

atmosphere for the spectators and competitors alike. It was a huge undertaking to run the event with a small committee, which seems to be the norm these days. Judging by the great feedback we think the NBS team nailed it and the ABHA are hoping to see this wolf pack back as an affiliate back in 2024.

ABHA AFFILIATES: WIN A SET OF TIMERS FOR YOUR CLUB!

Just Book & Pay for
5 Events by 24 Feb 2024
to be in the draw

Supported by: **Zwarteveen Electronics**



RULE CONNECT **GET UP TO DATE WITH RULE CHANGES!**

Amended Rule: 12th September 2023

That all ABHA events must have at least one manual back up clock and those times from this manual back up clock must be recorded.

That all ABHA events must have a person judging the event.

That any horse is eligible to enter any ABHA affiliated event provided they meet the age criteria for that particular event and can supply a vets certificate confirming the age of the horse.

Maturity events are open to horses aged 7, 8 & 9 years old.

Amended Rule: 9th August 2023

Any Maturity with \$250 prize money or more will count as a qualifying maturity round for the ABHA Finals.

Amended Rule: 20th July 2023

Whipping – Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from start of run to first barrel.

Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 1 to barrel 2 .

Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 2 to barrel 3.

Disqualification will occur if more than 4 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 3 to end of run.

Definition of equipment (object, device) riding crop- over and under whip- quirt, reins.

Ruled by the Judge.

Amended Rule: 20th June 2023

Barrel Racing Rule No 31:

If a competitor is to be assisted into the arena the handler must be in full dress attire as per rule 25 (Barrel Race Rules) and must exit the arena at the commencement of the run for safety reasons.

REMINDER For Competitors: Dress rules – Members competing at ABHA affiliated events must wear suitable button up long-sleeved shirt, western hat/ current Australian Standard's helmet, (No Caps) boots and jeans in the arena at all times. They must be neat and presentable. Please note fishing shirts are not accepted.

Missed some of the action at the 2023 National Finals?

YOUNG WESTERN



Be sure to download your Podcast episodes on Spotify or itunes.

Listen in

To a comprehensive coverage of the finals with daily recaps, special interviews from the ABHA 23 Finals

Your hosts

Montana & Shianne O'Donoghue-Kent