

# Mini Trotters' Association

With Nerissa Clarke

## New Season in Full Swing

The 2008/2009 season is now in full swing for participants of mini trotting across New South Wales. Many clubs are now back into racing mode, some for the first time in 18 months, due to the Equine Influenza crisis that rocked the 2007/2008 season.

The season began on a positive note for New South Wales Mini Trotting Association (NSWMTA), with Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) providing an ongoing commitment to the professional development and promotion of the sport.

A recent meeting of executives from both HRNSW and NSWMTA produced great results with lots of ideas and issues raised. A number of projects were discussed to form part of a three-year plan, with some projects to occur immediately and others in the pipeline for the years to come.

These projects are to be either fully or partially funded by HRNSW and provides an encouraging step towards securing a safe future for mini trotting in NSW.

The two main projects to be undertaken this current season are the establishment of a new website dedicated to NSWMTA, and the micro-chipping of all mini trotting ponies across the state.

The new website, [www.nswminitrots.com.au](http://www.nswminitrots.com.au) is now live and accessible to all.

This exciting site will play an important role in the administration and promotion of the activity for NSWMTA. It will become a valuable aid for all involved with or supporting mini trotting and includes details such as upcoming race meetings, racing results, buy/sell room, racing rules and requirements, affiliated club contact details, and much more.

The complete site establishment and professional design has been instigated by HRNSW staff and funded by HRNSW. In conjunction

with this new site, staff of HRNSW have also designed a vibrant new logo for use by NSWMTA. The logo will clearly identify NSWMTA on all correspondence, forms and also in promotional activities.

Another project receiving the attention and partial funding from HRNSW is the micro-chipping of all mini trotting ponies in NSW. The EI crisis uncovered the extreme lack of information available in regard to ponies competing at different venues across the state, particularly at short notice.

Micro-chipping will introduce a standard system of horse identification and ownership. Most clubs are in the process of organising micro-chipping days for their members' convenience, please contact your local club for details of a clinic in your local area.

Secretary of NSWMTA, Daryll Jackson, was thrilled with the outcomes of the meeting held and commented that he appreciated the assistance provided by the staff of HRNSW in relation to compiling a policy aimed at further developing and promoting mini trotting in the state.

## Penrith

Participants of the Penrith/Nepean Club attended meetings at Penrith Paceway towards the end of the last season. On average, 12 children competed at each meet which were held with the purpose of generating local interest in mini trotting following the long break.

Penrith are counting on a return to large member numbers now that their racing season has begun. As the weather warms up the club will start racing every Thursday evening at Penrith. Prior to this, a number of gala/trial days will be held.

These days are held by all clubs and are a good start for those interested in the sport to come along and see how everything happens! It is the perfect opportunity to have any queries answered without the stresses of race night.

## Riverina

The Riverina Club kicked off their new season racing in August attending local agricultural shows in the area including the Ganmain Centenary Show.

The club has a busy schedule pencilled in for this season with their main focus being on slowly rebuilding member numbers.

A micro-chipping/fun day will be conducted at Ganmain for all members on the 7th of September. This day will be followed up by shows at Aria Park, Ardlethan and Temora during September, and Illabo and Junee during October.

## Leeton

The team at Leeton are continuing to work hard planning the 2009 Championships to be held over the Easter weekend.

All participants and supporters are strongly encouraged to keep this weekend free in April and start making preparations to attend the event in Leeton. Regular racing for the season commences on the 10th of October with Leeton Show, however, prior to this a number of fun/trial days will be held throughout September.

## State Registrations

The 2008/2009 member registrations are now being taken by all clubs across the state. The Association consists of 11 affiliated clubs including Albury, Bathurst, Canberra, Dubbo, Inner City (Sydney), Leeton, Newcastle/Maitland, Penrith/Nepean, Metropolitan, Riverina and Tamworth.

For further information regarding this increasingly-popular sport or for details of your local club, please contact Nerissa Clarke (NSWMTA publicity officer) on telephone (02) 6953 6967, email [leetonminitrots@hotmail.com](mailto:leetonminitrots@hotmail.com) or visit the website at [www.nswminitrots.com.au](http://www.nswminitrots.com.au).