

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2018 Youth Sub-committee consisted of myself as Sub-committee Chair, Leonie Williamson (AHSA Chair), Kristen Galea and Clint Bilson. Our major focus this year was to assist the Arabian Horse Shows & Events Company of Australia Pty Ltd (Events Company) to further develop and expand the fledgling Australian Arabian Youth National Championships. This already popular event has the objective of providing not only a quality, national standard event for our younger members to enjoy their Arabians, but also to engage new young members. Additional assistance with this event was provided by Scott Benjamin (Events Company Chair), Miranda Beasley, Debra Watson, Greg Liddle and Nadine Holland

This year, the program was expanded to include dressage, along with the in-hand championships ridden championships, costume, fancy dress and games sections. Overall high point awards encouraged the young competitors to compete in all sections, showcasing the versatility of their Arabians, and hopefully opening up new experiences for their owners and riders.

Once again, K Ranch in Mount Hunter, NSW, hosted the event. This venue has proven to be an ideal and very affordable facility to act as a base for the event, as it grows and develops. This year, as well as attracting competitors from several States, the show took on a more International flavour, attracting several competitors from New Zealand. From ages 6 to 16, the young visitors made the trek across the ditch and were matched with suitable Australian horses. We sincerely thank those who donated the use of their horses and supported and encouraged our young competitors. All had a very enjoyable and successful show and most are looking forward to returning again. As a result of the event, one horse was sold to a lovely New Zealand family, who had borrowed him for the event. Long lasting friendships were made, and there is talk of another team coming across to compete this year.

In addition to this, the event attracted some competitors who had never been to an Arabian Show before. The enthusiasm on these young faces would suggest that they have become firm fans and will continue to attend events such as this.

Planning is already underway for this year's event, which is booked again at K Ranch during the Spring school holidays - 4th to 6th of October. Information will be available on the AHSA website as well as the 2019 Australian Arabian Youth National Championships Facebook Page. We look forward to your support, in whatever way you are able, to help bring these breeders and trainers of the future together with the Arabian Horse.

Karen Fletcher-Grieve