



## NSW Show Driving Report for June 2018



Thank you for the opportunity to be your State Show Driving convenor. I am finding my way through the process.

Our most recent event was the Light Harness Show Judges School held at Gunning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Thanks to the support of my Reedy Creek Club we had a very successful day.

We had four (4) applications for prospective judges and three (3) attended on the day. I will follow up with the other one. Twenty-eight (28) people sat in on the presentations given by three (3) very experienced speakers.

Heidi Stevens presented a booklet and spoke on the overall turnout in the showring. Compatibility with breeds and carriages, colours or outfits, plaiting and presentation.

Rick Jones went into depth on harness, correct fittings, acceptable condition, cleanliness and suitability. What to touch and what not to touch, hackney accessories, and when to excuse a competitor from the ring. ie not qualified (stallion/novice) poor control and accident probability, etc.

Richie Bensley told us about our horse or pony being "fit for the Class". Both physically and suitability. We may only expect we are going a few times around the ring but how often in one day and for how long in each class. We ask a hackney to do a lot which is very tiring. It reflects on a good judge and the length of the workout, yes, we want to see them work but we don't need a marathon and time spent standing around. Long pauses for deliberation etc. and ribbon presentation, (let the grooms help, they know the horse best sometimes) he also covered grooms and their role in control but not getting the way of the judge.

After a lovely hot homecooked lunch, thanks to Reedy Creek good cooks, we ventured onto the grounds where we were presented with 4 turnouts. Thanks to Melisa Bensley with Alrick (hackney horse stallion), Max Peace with Rocky (non hackney horse), Amanda Blakeley with Fallon (Shetland pony) and myself with Peg (non hackney horse). Candidate Judges were each given the opportunity to explain a workout they had prepared, and all judged accordingly. We had four (4) classes each judged specifically to the wording in the schedule.

Prospective judges hand in their choices and why. They then have a take home and complete a paper/open book exam.

Southern Highlands Carriage Club hosted the NSW Show Driving Championships in early May, fantastic grounds, very knowledgeable judges, numbers were down slightly but I believe this is due to the time of the year that the Championships are held. On a positive note Standardbred classes were well supported.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show was held in March, saw a lot of the usual competitors and a few new faces to the scene. A few ACDS members won championships and the evening harness parade.

Canberra Royal was held in February and after a revamp of classes was well supported. The delivery and business classes to be held on Sunday were washed out after over 100mm of rain fell overnight which was most welcomed.

The 2018 National ACDS Show Driving Championships are being held 11<sup>th</sup> November at Hawkesbury and are being jointly run by Camden and Hills Club.