



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 31st year servicing the needs of Members around Australia and beyond !

Dear Members,

National Committee hope Members and their Families are coping with the current restrictions that are in place in their area due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and that they are practicing safe distancing, staying safe while protecting themselves, their Families and others and want to assure Members that we will do all we can to support you through these unprecedented times.

Members please note the following important information regarding;-

Measuring Horses ... Reduction in DNA Fees ... Membership Renewals

Measuring Horses: Due to the fact that restrictions are still in force in many areas of Australia, and as National Committee want to relieve as much stress as we can for Members, ***we are extending the period that we are allowing ALL Members to measure their OWN Horse/s that need to be registered and/or upgraded; this will now be in place until at least 31 December, 2020.*** All Members need to do is send the necessary paperwork to the office and it will be processed in the normal way.

DNA Fees: We have been advised by the Equine Genetic Research Centre (EGRC) with whom we have an agreement to provide Parentage Testing, DNA testing and/or Genetic Screening Services for our Members, that they have considerably reduced the Fees for a range of their services. To give Members an example of the substantial reduction in Fees, the **Type PV (Equine Parentage Testing) Item 0058 on the MHAA® Workorder, is being reduced from \$87.50 to \$67-50.** We are waiting on confirmation of the other reductions and will advise Members of them, as soon as we have the new Fees.

Membership Renewals: With regard to Membership Renewals, in unprecedented times like these, Member's 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, Registry Office administration fees, 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.

I 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.

Membership Renewals: Contd

As most Members are aware, Membership Renewals can now be done online and paid by direct deposit into the MHAA® Bank Account via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and the Online Membership Renewal Form can then be emailed. Members can also pay via Credit Card, cheque or Money Order.

It is also timely to remind Members that in order to maintain continuity of their Membership, they must renew their Membership NOW. If you have not renewed, ALL Membership privileges will cease, i.e. you will not be able to Register Foals, Upgrade Horses, enter Shows (when these are able to be held), vote at State or National level, or lodge any relevant paperwork with the office.

For Member's convenience, Membership Renewal Forms are sent with this E-News. If you have any queries with regards paying your Membership Renewal, please contact the National Secretary, Barb Voysey Email: tygerbar@skymesh.com.au or Mobile: 0418 821100.

Thankyou to the many Members who have already renewed their Membership, as your support is very much appreciated.

We will be having an independent Auditor conduct the Membership draw within the next week and those eligible Members who are lucky enough to have their Membership Number drawn out, will be advised as soon as possible thereafter.

Reports that are available: Several Members have contacted us, as they are using this free time without Shows, to check through registrations and wanted to confirm what Horses are still registered in their name in the database and found these Reports very useful. Members are also reminded they can also get a Report listing all the Horses bred by them. These can be requested by sending to the office a Workorder, with payment and mark the following two items:-

- Item 0071 Horses owned by Member (Report) \$16-50
- Item 0072 Horses bred by Member (Report) \$16-50

AGM: With the current situation with regards travel restrictions and State lockdowns, we are unable to set a date for our AGM and when this is possible, Members will be advised.

Sending Paperwork to the Office: Members are reminded that the best method of sending paperwork to the office is via Express Post, as the item maybe tracked and the Post Office put the mail in the MHAA® Post Box. Please DO NOT SEND via Registered Post, as this necessitates a visit to the Post Office, which considering our location is in Victoria, makes it difficult to collect mail due to the current restrictions in the area of our office. Members co-operation in this regard is required.

If any Member has any other issues with regards registrations or upgrades, or for that matter anything you think we may be able to assist with, or want to discuss an issue you are having with your Horse registration, do not hesitate to contact us, as we will do everything we can to assist Members not only through this very stressful period, but at anytime. Members are often surprised to find out that we can assist them with an issue that they thought was just not possible to resolve. So, with this in mind, you have nothing to lose in asking for assistance and Members can direct any queries to the National Secretary, Barb Voysey, via email admin@mhaa.com.au or mobile 0418 821100.

At times like this, when many of our fellow Members are going through some very stressful times, it helps to touch base and check if they are ok and let them know that they are being thought about and that you are there to support them.

Take care everyone ... stay safe ... remember we are all in this together ... by staying apart today ... we can be together tomorrow !!!

National Committee of Management Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc

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