

Appaloosa & Paint

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Makayla Brice Photos courtesy www.rebeccadevriesphotography.com.au



Above: Grand Champion Gelding and Supreme Appaloosa Exhibit was Divine Intimidation, owned and shown by Debbie Tucker.
Left: Aged Mare 10yrs and over PS Ideal Reflection with Lexi Harrington and judge Eric Petersen.



Right: Rae Hare and Happy Face in the Trail. (Open Show)
Left: Spirit Red Boy Ocala ridden by Gabrielle Bernard.



Left: Bareback Horsemanship - PS Ideal Reflection - ridden by Lexi Harrington
Right: Grand Champion Paint Horse was Melane Pillow Talk, with Julie Baker.



Below: Littlestone Kryptonite (QH) and owner/rider Tracy Allen won the Junior Hunter Under Saddle, the Select Hunt Seat Equitation, Jnr Trail, Select Horsemanship and Western Pleasure.
Right: I'm Pawsitively Surely Good ridden by Karen Cornish.



The State Equestrian Centre was the venue for the 40th annual Perth Regional Appaloosa Club State Championships on Saturday the 29th of February.

The Paint Horses and Appaloosas combined on the day to run their Championships together, yet separately, so they could take full advantage of the expertise of USA judge and trainer, Eric Petersen. There was also an Open Show run over the Sunday and Monday, which saw Paints, Appaloosa and Quarter Horses competing.

It was a weekend full of fun, laughter and competition but, more importantly for the Perth Regional Appaloosa Club, it was a weekend to show off their breed.

The day started with Halter and Futurities. SWP Moonlight Breeze, a beautiful filly owned and shown by Rebecca Firms, won the Weanling Futurity. The Yearling Futurity was won by BCR Hot Summer Night, a well-presented colt owned by Samantha Webb and shown by Brian Cramp from Braeside Performance Horses. Fewstorm lil Rippa, a stunning filly owned by Samantha Webb, was shown by Makayla Brice to win the Two Year Old Futurity.

For breeders and owners of young horses these futurity classes are an honour to win, and they promote both the sire and dam of the winners.

The 2020 State Supreme Appaloosa Exhibit was awarded to Debbie Tucker's gelding, Divine Intimidation, an outstanding example of the breed. "I bought him as a weanling and had no idea he would turn out to be so good," said Deb. "He's rising five years and is now having training with Kayla Ranoldi. This is to make his performance solid so it will make my job easier once I start competing on him."

Deb lost interest in competing when her old Appaloosa, Neville, passed away, and this is her first venture back into the ring. "He's my new heart-horse," she said, "and I was so lucky with his temperament and trainability."

Like all western breed events there was a mixture of halter, futurities, horsemanship and ridden classes, and what a brilliant turnout it was for all of the ridden classes.

Although it was the State Championships it was encouraging to see a lot of new faces and horses attending, which always bodes well for a positive future for the breed.

Youth are a big part of the industry. They are the up-and-coming riders and without encouragement the number of youth competing will decrease. A BIG shout out to one youth competitor, Lexi Harrington, for her can-do attitude and her kindness towards others. Throughout the weekend she encouraged not only her fellow youth competitors, but everyone who was competing.

The Open Show included a couple of different classes not seen at many shows; the first being Bareback Horsemanship, where the rider performs a standard riding pattern - obviously without a saddle. The other event was the Shankless Showmanship where the class entered the arena, the gates were closed and as competitors prepared to do their horsemanship in-hand workout, their lead ropes were removed and they completed the course purely on body language and hand movement aids from the handler.

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend and it will be interesting to see if the 2021 State Championships can top this one!