Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. This time of year is a chance to take a break. As the cooler weather brings woolly coats to our horses, the busy show season slows down. It has been very encouraging to see the number of Haflingers out and about and in this edition; there are plenty of photos of members and their horses in show and sport activities. Please keep sending the photos coming, be it for the Newsletter, website or on social media.

As I write this the General Assembly of the World Haflinger Breeding and Sporting Federation (WHBSF) is meeting near Merano Italy. Unfortunately, whilst it was not possible to be in attendance, we will have access to the presentations which include a report from the Haflinger Breeding Commission on standardisation of the evaluation system. This should be most interesting for breeders, judges and classifiers and many Haflinger owners. Discussion on a road show visit by members of the World Federation continues, but as yet no date has been set.

A regular agenda item at Board meetings is communications and marketing. One of the critical channels for communication is the Association website and the Board has prioritised the development of a new site which will incorporate a more modern theme, better links to social media and technology which allows for improved member engagement. Unfortunately the existing site/technology is no longer well supported by the provider and this has reinforced the need for change.

A procedure is being documented to allow a horse to be re-measured subsequent to classification. Both the classification height and date and re-measure height and date will be recorded on the registration certificate. Once ratified, the procedure will be published in the Association rules. It is expected the re-measure will be undertaken either by presentation at a classification event (height check only), by veterinary certificate or through an official EFA measurer. An administration fee will be levied.

The Board has also discussed two items which would require a change to the Constitution and under the rules, a super majority vote at an Annual General Meeting. The first of these is a request to consider voting rights for Associate members (predominantly gelding owners) and the second a change of name to explicitly reflect sporting activities in line with the World Federation (Australian Haflinger Breeding and Sporting Association has been suggested). A short survey will be developed for members to express their views on these items before either of these items proceeds more formally.

For your diaries please note the AGM is proposed for July 23 at Dural Country Club commencing at 10:30 AM.

Thank you to the newsletter contributors, editors and photographers. Regards, Paul
NEWCASTLE SHOW 2017 REVIEW

By Cathy Padgen

Cathy Padgen judged and stated—“*Great* turnout of horses and, in fact, on the Saturday the Haflingers were the biggest numbers in all the breed classes that I judged. Special mention should go to the winning saddle horse and the trainer—beautifully presented and trained (Fernances Roseamber, owned by Lotte Schall).”

NEWCASTLE SHOW 2017 RESULTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stallion – Traditional</th>
<th>Stallion – Modern</th>
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<td>Mare – Traditional</td>
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<td>Fernances Creek Rose Amber</td>
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<td>Bunderra Applause</td>
<td>Ballindeane Ace</td>
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Champion Led Haflinger - Spartacus
Reserve Champ Led Haflinger - Ballindeane Ace

Ridden Stallion

1st
Spartacus

Ridden Mare

1st
Fernances Creek Rose Amber

2nd
Serenity II

Ridden Gelding

1st
Bunderra Applause

2nd
Ballindeane Ace

Champion Ridden Haflinger - Fernances Rose Amber ridden by Lotte Schall Reserve Champ
Ridden Haflinger - Bunderra Applause ridden by Jordan Proctor Jones

NATIONAL PONY OF THE YEAR 2017 (THE RUG RACK) RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colt/Stallion 3 Years &amp; under</th>
<th>Filly 3 years &amp; under</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ballindeane Hurricane</td>
<td>Serenity II</td>
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Champion Junior - Ballindeane Hurricane Reserve
Champ - Spartacus

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<tr>
<th>Stallion 4yrs &amp; under 6yrs</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setco Winter Eclipse</td>
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Autumn 2017

**Stallion 6yrs & Over**

1st Setco Nova  
2nd Bunderra Winter Stolz  
3rd Setco Stig

*Champion Snr Stallion - Setco Nova Reserve Champ – Setco Winter Eclipse*

**Mare 4yrs & under 6yrs**

1st Lemarni  
2nd Setco O’Baby  
3rd Setco Fillipa

**Mare 6yrs & Over**

1st Arkey Carina  
2nd Fernances Creek Montana  
3rd Fidelia

*Champion Snr Mare - Arkey Carina Reserve Champ -*

**Gelding 4yrs & under 6yrs**

Xanthe Awandrinstar  
Northern Star  
1st  
2nd Setco Wellington Boot  
3rd Setco Walliandro  
4th

**Gelding 6yrs & Over**

Ballindeane Ace  
Bunderra Applause  
1st  
2nd Sovereign Nelson  
3rd Setco William  
4th

*Champion Snr Stallion - Xanthe Awandrinstar Reserve Champ - Ballindeane Ace*

**2017 Haflinger of the Year - Xanthe Awandrinstar Runner up**

*Haflinger of the year - Arkey Carina*

**Ridden Stallion**

Bunderra Winter Stolz *ridden by Sadie Pattison*  
Setco Winter Eclipse *ridden by Jon Venticinque*

1st  
2nd  
3rd

**Ridden Mare**

Arkey Carina *ridden by Carissa Drew*  
Setco Fillipa *ridden by Hettie Pattison*  
Fidelia *ridden by Louise Venticinque*  
1st  
2nd  
3rd  
4th Fernances Creek Montana *ridden by Natasha Noonan*  
Serenity II *ridden by Lotte Schall*  
5th

**Ridden Gelding**

Ballindeane Ace *ridden by Kelly Moir*  
Xanthe Awandrinstar *ridden by Shanna Dening*  
Setco Walliandro *ridden by Carissa Drew*  
Bunderra Applause *ridden by Jordan Proctor Jones*  
1st  
2nd  
3rd  
4th  
5th  
Setco William *ridden by Jordan Patterson*
Autumn 2017

Ridden Haflinger of the Year - Arkey Carina ridden by Carissa Drew
Runner up Ridden Haflinger of the Year – Bunderra Winter Stolz ridden by Sadie Patterson

Active Pony
2nd Rider 12yrs & under 17yrs Setco Wallandro ridden by Jordan Proctor Jones
Rider 17yrs & over Arkey Carina ridden by Carissa Drew

Native Pony
3rd Led 4yrs & over Xanthe Awandrinstar led by Kristie Macbaine

Champion of Champions
Xanthe Awandrinstar & Ballindeane Hurricane

NATIONAL PONY OF THE YEAR REVIEW
By Kristie Macbain

Thursday March 30th 2017 was finally here, I had scored 2 days off at my new job so I could make the hike down to Sydney with Harry (aka Xanthe Awandrinstar) to take part in NPOTY 2017. Being as organised as what I was, it was a super early start for me, pack bags, pack float, grab a filthy horse and loaded up. Unfortunately for me, Cyclone Debbie which then became a tropical low made an appearance and followed me with what can only be described as, at times, torrential conditions, but we made it safely. The plan was arrive, wash, rug and re-touch any areas that needed it on the morning of our class. Things never go to plan though; we arrived, unloaded and Harry was put straight into a paddock for the night, being later classes it gave us time to wash in the morning.

Show day could not have been more glorious if we ordered it straight from the weather man! It was a flurry of excitement, washing, prepping, last minute checks and polishing. Normally we are on quite early, so it was nice to have the morning to get the final touches done although it didn't stop the stressing of making sure every hair is perfect.

Harry was first up in the Native Pony class and was competing against a variety of breeds so I was extremely proud and happy when we walked away with a 3rd place against 7 amazing horses.

It was a rush back home to help Liz get the 2 girls on the float and back to the show. Lucky it was only 5 minutes away. By the time I got back, my clean pony had mud covering 4 legs and splashed up under his belly. That's the last time I leave him at a show. This meant I missed most of the young-stock classes and stressed whilst I waited for a hose connection to arrive because there was no touching up that could have fixed that mess.

I arrived down at the rings in time to see the final young-stock classes going through and I must say, looking at the marshalling area from above it was a pretty impressive view seeing all the Haflingers in the marshalling areas waiting to go in their classes.

What was just as impressive was the atmosphere. It’s always a pleasure showing amongst Haflinger owners; whilst everyone likes their horses to so well, I am sure I speak for all to say that we all like to see our peers do well also.

I must admit, every single show I get so nervous before hand. I am fine once I enter the ring, but the lead up to that first class, I can only describe myself as being such a nervous nelly that I tend to shut down. This show was no different, Harry and I stood back and watched the classes going through before us. This not only takes my focus off my nerves but allows
me to get an idea of the workout being asked, how long the judge will allow you to get your horse to stand etc. So whilst I was focused on classes, I had the amazing Trish Skelton putting the final touches on Harry.

Finally it’s our turn. We stepped into that ring and all my nerves slipped away, Harry must have felt all that tension leave too as he was a much more relaxed pony from earlier in the morning. Harry went into work mode and performed beautifully. I was concerned about his standing in the lead up because we had been having a bit of trouble at home but I took a deep breath, relaxed, took my time and asked, and Harry delivered. Harry went on to win his Gelding 4-6 yo class against 3 other gorgeous geldings and received some lovely comments from the judge. We got a few minutes to relax whilst the 6 yrs & Over Gelding class went through then it was back in to go up against his half brother Ace for Champion. Harry was lucky enough win Champion Senior Haflinger Gelding which then made him eligible to go in the finals. There was no rest this time, we were straight in for the finals.

It was final time and it was always going to be a tough class. Ballindeane Hurricane ~ Jnr Champion, Setco Nova ~ Snr Stallion Champion, Arkley Carina ~ Snr Mare Champion and Xanthe Awandrinstar ~ Snr Gelding Champion were all brought in for the final. We all did our walk arounds, standing and work outs, the class itself was really a massive blur for me however I clearly remember saying to Liz, my best friend who was standing next to me with her beautiful girl that if they call my number let me know because I was deaf in one ear and couldn’t hear announcements (thank you ear infection).

Arkley Carina presented by Carissa Drew was awarded Runner Up Haflinger Of the Year and to my absolute amazement and delight Harry (Xanthe Awandrinstar) was awarded Haflinger of the Year 2017 for the 2nd year running.

Photo credit: Josh Noonan
Whilst last year was a highly emotional win that held a lot of sadness behind it, this year was a completely different feeling. There are so many words that describe how I felt being there with this amazing gelding we bred, our first born and the very start of the Xanthe name. I am so incredibly proud of Harry, of our journey and so excited for our future. Harry is my one in a million horse, he tries his little heart out for me with everything we do and I could not ask for a better partner.

The ridden classes were huge! Well done to all who entered and rode. In my opinion, the ring was a little small in comparison to the other rings and the last turn to the judge proved to be tight for even the seasoned horses as you could see them slipping a little however there was no repeat of last year and all horses remained upright for the ridden events.

Massive congratulations to Arkley Carina and Carissa Drew for being awarded Ridden Haflinger Champion and Setco Winterstoltz and Sadie for Reserve Champion.

Harry and Hurricane went back on the Saturday for the heats in the Bamborough Champion of Champions In hand final invite-only class and whilst we did not progress through to the final, to be invited and to be part of a line up with 9 amazing M&M Breeds and Gypsy Cobs was an awesome experience. We received some lovely comments from other competitors / public whilst we were waiting for our class in regards to the turnout on Friday and being able to represent the Haflingers was an honour.

2017 NPOTY was the biggest turnout yet for the Haflingers in the history of the show and certainly the biggest stallion turnout we had ever had. All attendees should be so proud, horses and handlers all looked amazing, it really was a sight to see. Special mention to Setco Team, a total of 9 horses with a whopping 4 stallions is incredible and you should all be very proud of your day and for turning out that many to such a high standard. And a massive personal thanks to my strapper
for the day Trish Skelton, who was meant to be running her trade stand however was there with me keeping me sane and Harry looking exceptional. We could not have gotten through the day without you!

NATIONAL PONY OF THE YEAR PHOTOS
A small selection...there are many more beautiful images to be seen on the AHHBA website and the Haflinger Facebook pages.
EDITORIAL: HAFLINGERS AS THERAPY HORSES

Equine therapy is practiced around the world. Originally used to help patients recover from traumatic injuries, it then became a widely-used therapy for physically handicapped individuals. In recent years, equine therapy has been used to help with a wide variety of psychological and mental disorders and addiction, addressing issues of co-dependence, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), psychological and emotional issues such as depression, grief, anxiety, and anger management.

Documented research shows positive physical and psychological results from humans interacting with horses. These include decreased blood pressure and heart rate, lower levels of stress, reduced feelings of tension, anxiety, anger and hostility, as well as increased levels of beta-endorphins, and beneficial feelings of self-esteem, empowerment, patience and trust.

Often, patients using equine therapy have difficulty relating to other human beings, and would not accept closeness with another – but they will with horses. There seems to be a psychological bond that develops with the horse. It is thought that this is because horses are prey animals that evolved to live in herds and be sensitive to changes in body language in other animals that can signal danger. On top of that, thousands of years of domestication has attuned them to human emotions. It’s because of these qualities that horses can help humans to manage a variety of problems.
So it's not so much about getting on the horse - although that comes later - as learning how to earn a horse's trust and cooperation which in itself is a lesson in regulating one's own emotions.

It has been seen that the horse will react to an anxious or angry person. The person thus learns to reflect on their feelings and change their behaviour. Horses are also helpful with people who have difficulty developing trust, where it has been seen that once someone has built a trusting relationship with a horse, it helps them to trust other people.

It is reported in medical literature that there are also significant physical benefits for the rider (in patients with cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, for example) using equine therapy. The warmth and movement of the horse is transmitted through the rider’s body, making it more relaxed and supple, and improving balance, posture and co-ordination.

Riding also offers an element of risk, often denied to people, especially those who have been affected by an accident or serious illness, and offers them the chance to regain mobility and a sense of achievement.

Apart from their beautiful looks, the Haflinger offers a kind, friendly temperament, and are traditionally known to be quiet, gentle horses that are tolerant of many kinds of riders. These qualities make them very popular as therapy horses. There are recognized differences between horse breeds in regard to aggressiveness and speed of flight response to confrontation. So-called ‘hot-blooded’ horses, such as Thoroughbreds or Arabians are more highly reactive than ‘cold-blooded’ draught / heavy horse breeds.

The following stories illustrate the value of the Haflinger as a therapist.

ROSE

Owner: Dr Kellie Tinworth

After a particularly nasty fall from my much-loved Thoroughbred and historical brain damage from a horse kick to my head many years ago, which makes my ability to walk, talk and ride a horse particularly miraculous - I suffer from a balance disorder because of my severe vertigo - I almost decided to retire from horses.

Apart from the scar to my mental health, my physical dependence on my daily horse-riding was thus at threat. The muscle tone I develop from horse-riding is so important to my being able to stand and walk, thus I was terrified of losing that too.
However, the loan of a Clydesdale by a wise friend and some reading about the science of the reactivity of different horse breeds convinced me that a heavy horse might suit me. Mentions by my neighbor of these gorgeous, kind, placid horses (that were not as hairy as Clydesdales! But with the strength and stamina required for low-level Endurance Riding) that he would happily ride bareback with only a headstall, inspired me to buy gorgeous Rose.

I completely adore Rose. She has exceeded my expectations of a safe, reliable, kind, placid horse. She is patient and tolerant of my efforts in the round-yard and in the saddle. When I trip over the ground, she just stands and waits until I’m ready. When the saddle slips or I just lose my balance and fall off, she just stands patiently waiting for me. When I lose my confidence on steep hill descents, she seems to say ‘I’ve got this, you just sit still and hold on.’

I take Rose trail riding in The NSW Snowy Mountains, and compete in low-level Endurance Rides. These activities present me with a ‘risky’ activity that promotes an amazing self-confidence and sense of empowerment when I succeed.
ARTOS

Owner: Eloise Jory

I bought Artos in September 2014 as a green almost 4 year old. I was looking for a more established dressage / riding club pony, and I am a nervous rider, and everyone I know was telling me how stubborn and naughty Haflingers are and that I should avoid them. So I flew up to NSW and fell in love with Artos and he came to live in Victoria.

Unfortunately within a few months, I got chronic fatigue syndrome and wasn’t able to ride for over 2 years. So Artos enjoyed a nice break as a paddock ornament, but he was bored, so approx a year ago I engaged someone to ride him once a week and bring him along in his training. During my bad times, I would be helped on to him, and lead around the arena so I could get my horse fix. In the last 6 months I’ve started to recover and am able to have short rides.

As a nervous rider without much strength, a month ago I rode him around a 45 cm show jumping course. I’ve never done that on ANY horse ever. Although it was a bit of a destruction derby (he worked out he can kick the poles down!)

Today I rode him bareback, and we had a 10 minute walk around the arena on a loose rein. I NEVER thought I’d be doing this on any horse. He is just such a gentle, chilled out pony.

I wasn’t sure if I was making the right decision back in September 2014, but it’s clear now that I definitely chose the right horse for me.
ALABASTER (ALBY)

Owner: Quita Docking

Quita was in a coma for three months and a further three months with post traumatic amnesia, after the horse she was riding fell and rolled on her. Her brain was so badly damaged that the doctors advised her family that even if she survived without the assistance of life-support equipment, she would probably never walk or even communicate again.

Quita defied the odds, survived, and with the help of some excellent medical staff and her devoted family, learnt to breathe, eat, speak, walk, and even ride again.

Her determination and dedication to her horse has been a profound incentive to recover.

She was determined to get back on the horse, and get back to her life and work on the big Northern Territory cattle stations, where she was an extremely competent ‘Jillaroo’. Thirteen years on, she’s still chasing that ambition. Tragically, her permanent mental and physical disabilities hinder her ability to be totally independent.

She’s riding here with a shaky right arm, a very stiff left arm and leg, blurred vision, poor natural sense of balance and almost no short-term memory. So although she can remember her skills and lifestyle on the land before her accident, she can’t remember her amazing recovery.
Alby is only little but, most importantly, he is tolerant of Quita dropping her reins and stirrups, and laying down on him to try to gather herself together again. Quita loved him from the start, but didn’t want to ride him because of a lingering jillaroo “thing”, he was too small and it would be shame job to ride such a small “pony”. It took some time, but now Alby and Quita are a great team. Quita’s confidence in her ability has re-surfaced, her balance is still improving, her body and leg strength is building to the extent that she is almost able to mount by herself from a milk crate or the fence. He just stands and waits, sometimes she falls over the other side and he just looks at her as if to say “what you doin there, get back up!’ Quita says “He has restored my self-confidence so that I’m able to go for a ride and join in horse sports, such as drum runners (barrels). He has a kind, placid temperament, and has been a great ‘physiotherapist’ for me (physiotherapy is a huge part of my life these days.”

**FEATURE**

**GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL**

By Frances Wylie

To celebrate a couple of significant birthdays some friends and I decided we would like to do a major ride with our horses. We chose the Great Victorian Rail Trail which is the longest rail trail in Australia at 134 kilometres. It travels from Tallarook to Mansfield, close to the Victorian High Country and passes through a number of pretty towns and some very beautiful and varied countryside.
The trail follows the Goulburn River and crosses many bridges including the very scary 385 metre long-bridge high above Lake Eildon. There is also the 201 metre Cheviot Rail Tunnel. The rail trail is a shared walking, bicycle and horse trail. It is very well maintained with yards, water troughs and toilets along the way.
Five of us rode the trail for 6 days, riding up to 30 kilometres a day. We camped in floats, vans, cabins and a shearer’s quarters. Four very tolerant husbands helped with the logistics and managed to squeeze in a bit of bike riding.
Marmaduke, my trusty Haflinger, was particularly brave and managed all the challenges of the trail including bell-ringing bicycles, heavy road-traffic, busy towns and those very scary bridges and tunnels. He also kept up with some very large horses. I couldn’t be prouder of Marmaduke and how he managed the challenges of this trip. I’m now planning the next one…..

APPETISER: THE VERSATILE HAFLINGER

Fernances Creek Orissa

Everyone seems to be getting their Haflingers out and about.

Here we have Sophie Morane (Brenda Morane) out in the time trials with Orissa. It’s so good to see the Haflingers doing so many different sports, and that people are introducing their babies to Haflingers
The versatility of Haflingers will be explored in more depth in the next issue.

WEATHERING THE STORMS AND MISSING HORSES

Many years ago, we had a horse that went to a young girl near the Bellingen River. The River is very beautiful and this particular horse loved water so the family always included the river in their horse riding activities. After a few years, the family moved further north and decided to get another horse. When they saw the photos of Fernances Creek Nordic swimming in the ocean, they knew that this was the horse for them. Unfortunately, there was a devastating flood and lengthy clean up before he could arrive at his new home. He has arrived and is settling in well.

Here is a photo of Nordic and his new friend.
Unrelated to the story about Nordic and while I was writing this story (five minutes ago), I got a phone call from another lady that purchased one of our horses a few years ago called Ajax (BA 289, also known as Hansi). She said that her property had flooded and all of her horses had been recovered except Ajax. No one has reported this horse found and she believes that he may have been taken. The heartbreaking thing is that Ajax belongs an 8 yo girl that has Asperger’s Syndrome. This horse is her joy and the daughter is distraught. She has registered the horse stolen with local authorities. Can you please spread the word on all of your Haflinger channels and help her find the horse.
Help Hansi come home! This little horse was bred at Fernances Creek years ago, keep your eyes open for this little horse.

Here is a photo of Ajax and the little girl
CONDOLENCES
To Kelley-Page Kelly and her family, who sadly lost their Haflinger, 'little Normy boy', and their cute little pony in March, 2017, to a horrible freak accident. They are grief-stricken and hopefully finding comfort in their other Haflingers, Aussie and Nobel.

FOR SALE
Below is a list of classifieds and horses for sale. Please feel free to contact the owner on the details provided if you have any further questions or are interested in purchasing.

Fernances Creek Nevada and Fernances Creek Nero are both for sale. Rising 3 Nevada will be ready to go by Christmas. He will suit a pony clubber or adult rider. More information on Facebook Haflinger Horses for Sale Australia or www.fernancescreek.com.au.

Contact fernancescreek@gmail.com

Also check out the new Haflingers for Sale Australia on Facebook, This is not an AHHBA site but is a good source of information for those looking for Hafligner horses.

Sinnamon Farm also has a nice gelding for sale. Nox for sale. 2 yo gelding Contact: Caroline Sinnamon
Email: caro667@tpg.com.au
Setco Haflingers have a range of horses available from 2 - 11 yrs at different training levels. The above boys are broken in. Please email any enquiries you may have to haflingers@setco.com.au or phone Louise on 0419 676 310 to organize a visit to our Studs.
Advertising: Stallion Services

Horses and Stud Services by Fernances Creek

Fernances Creek have some young geldings for sale. These geldings are unbroken now but will be in training and ready to go by December or early January. They can be purchased broken or unbroken. We will also have some youngsters (under 2) coming up.

With breeding season coming up, we offer natural stud services with a live foal guarantee. We offer a modern stallion Spartacus (15 hands) or a traditional stallion Nutella (14 hands). Contact us on fernancescreek@gmail.com to discuss the options.

Advertising is free for members. If you have haflinger services or products that you think members might be interested in. Send in your request before the next newsletter. This is a new to the newsletter.

AHHBA MERCHANDISE (all money goes to the AHHBA)

AHHBA Merchandise provides the AHHBA with money to fund shows, ribbons and horse promotions. Please support this initiative and purchase calendars and Christmas cards from www.haflinger.org.au/merchandise. New 2017 AHHBA Calendar(s) available. Every month is different and packed full of member photos. Also AHHBA Christmas Cards will also be on sale in packs of 10.

Go to the www.haflinger.org.au to order your cards and calendars.

12 different calendar photo covers each month.
ADVERTISING: MERCHANDISE

Top Quality Haflinger Saddlepads

These saddlepads are a rich blue colour with gold braiding and stitching. They are embroidered with the classical Haflinger Edelweiss "H" and the letter "A" for Australia. Made from 100% cotton shell, lining, padding and polyfoam.

Full Dressage or Full General Purpose Sizes, With or without logo.
Cost: $55.00 plus postage $12.00

Payments: Transfer to:
Fernaways Creek BSB3023976 ACC 0169914
Then email fernawayscreek@gmail.com with Transaction record.

Advertising is free for members. If you have haflinger services or products that you think members might be interested in. Send in your request before the next newsletter. This is a new to the newsletter.

One last story for you on the last page!
Life is a Parade

It was a great turnout for the AHHBA in Scone this past weekend.

Setco Haflingers and Fernances Creek Haflingers got together and rode in the Scone Parade. Everyone was in high spirits and were number 18 in the Equine Entries. While we were waiting to find our place in line, Scone Equine Hospital made it memorable and presented us with a beautiful First Place ribbon for the Best Equine Parade Entry.

We put on a brave face in anticipation of our first parade with the knowledge that it would include marching bag pipes and high school brass bands, large floats and horse drawn carts. None of the horses had ever been in a parade, especially the young ones, so we weren’t feeling lucky when the bag pipe band was positioned right behind us.

A couple of the young horses jogged, looked around and were then calmed by their riders. We all finished the parade with smiling faces and horses that were grateful to escape the crazy, wonderful parade. The organisers and people were so helpful and nice, I hope we are all back next year with even more AHHBA members.

I have included a few photos of what these horses were seeing. Everyone had such a good time and thank you to everyone that participated in and put in so much preparation.