



## MEMBERS BULLETIN MARCH 2016

### **2016 State Committee Elections**

Nominations for the 2016 State Committee Elections are now open. The 2016 Nomination Form for State Committee Elections is available for download from the RPSBS website: [click here](#).

Nomination forms will no longer be posted out to all members. This decision reduces the Office workload and avoids expensive postage charges.

*Nominations close with the Company Secretary at 5.00pm AEDT, Tuesday, 29 March 2016.*

This provides a two-week extension on the previously advertised closing date to support members, the Office and the Company Secretary because of Easter falling in March.

### **2016 Society Annual General Meeting**

The 2016 Society Annual General Meeting will be held in Melbourne on Saturday, 25 June, 2016. All members are encouraged to attend the AGM and the associated Members Forum. The agenda for both meetings will be available via the website prior.

### **2016 Annual**

The RPSBS Annual Editorial Team looks forward to another exciting season of hard work and great rewards working with our valued members.

2016 Annual Member Information and Advertising Forms will be published on the RPSBS website in the next few days and will be emailed to members.

### ***Booking an Advertisement***

All advertisement bookings must be returned to the office by email, fax or surface mail. Please be aware that surface mail can take quite a while to deliver. See details on the booking form when it is released.

After the success of the advertising banners in 2015 a limited number will be offered again in 2016.

The office will manage all invoicing and financial transactions. No advert pages will be confirmed until full payment has been received.

Advertisements, photos, text and submissions must be emailed as attachments to [rpsbs.annual@gmail.com](mailto:rpsbs.annual@gmail.com)  
The Editorial Team will manage the material submitted for the Annual pages.

Help us celebrate our wonderful Riding Ponies by becoming part of the 2016 Annual!

*Eleanor Gerry, Editor*

### **New Office Contact Hours**

The National Office has introduced new contact hours to assist with improving processing times. While the office staff work Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm, they will only be available to answer telephone calls during the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 10.00am to 4.00pm  
Wednesday – Closed

### **Transfer Rule Update**

Effective 1 February, 2016, either the vendor or purchaser has the right to initiate and pay for the transfer of a pony. All transfers must still include the authorising signature from the registered owner and be accompanied with payment. Transfers should be lodged with the National Office within 30 days to avoid late fees being applied.

### **Judge Membership Fee – increase**

The Judge membership fee will increase to \$35 per annum, effective 1 July, 2016.

### **Show Exhibitors**

The Society is now working with the committees of agricultural and royal shows to ensure that all entrants meet RPSBS Showing Rules and Regulations.

Exhibitors are requested to ensure that all pony registrations are correct in the online Stud Book. Details being checked include:

- Owner is a current financial member and details are as per the Stud Book.
- Exhibitor is a current financial member.
- Pony is registered correctly for the category it is competing in. This includes upgrading of foals to either geldings or stallions for ponies over 4 years of age if applicable.

Members may be requested to present both their membership card and certificate of registration on the day with spot checks occurring.

### **Processing Times**

Members are advised that pony registrations and transfers, memberships and other associated stud book related requests will incur a turnaround of approximately 2-3 weeks. Please take into consideration the extended mail delivery times due to the new Australia Post services.

For urgent requests, the option of selecting a Fast Track is available. Fast Track requests are actioned the same day and must be received before 4.00pm. A Fast Track fee of \$40 applies per transaction. Please contact the National Office directly to request this service.

When entering a pony for any major show, registrations must be lodged with the National office at least 4 weeks prior to entries closing to ensure that details are available to be published in the associated show program.

### **Standards of Excellence**

The Show Pony and Show Hunter Standards of Excellence have been updated in line with the Registration Rules to reference colour. The Standards of Excellence now reference **Colour: Straight colour is preferred.**

Details are available on the RPSBS National website.

### **Social Media**

The RPSBS Social Media Policy is available on the National Website.

The RPSBS encourages the use of social media to positively showcase the Society, however unfavourable comments that have the potential to harm the reputation of the association and its members is not acceptable.

If you have a specific complaint or query, we encourage you to put this in writing to the Board of Directors where it will be considered and responded to in a formal manner.

**Postage charges**

Australia Post recently announced new mail services. Delivery times for mail is taking considerably longer than before:

	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Express Post</b>
<b>Delivery Times</b>	Up to 2 business days longer than Priority	1-4 business days depending on destinations	Next business day guaranteed

*As published on the Australia Post website.*

The Society will introduce some additional mail service options to ensure that members can receive their completed paperwork within their required timeframes.

Priority Post will cost an additional \$0.50, while Express Post will cost an additional \$7.00.

All forms will be updated shortly to reflect the new postage options however, if priority or express post services are required, please note this on your paperwork and add the relevant charge.

*Vicki Callaway  
National Secretariat  
Riding Pony Stud Book Society*