



2025-2026 GENERAL COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Cindy Atkins: SA



I have been a member of Southern Star Western Performance Club since it began in 2006, a committee member off & on over the years and am currently the club's President. We run training days once a month (at which I often facilitate instruction) and at least one western show during the year. Over the years I have instructed, judged and trained horses at various levels. I was in the process of gaining my clinician ship for Cowboy Dressage but due to unforeseen circumstances did not continue down this path. I am proficient in the use of applications such as Xero, Microsoft suite and other bookkeeping programs. I would say I'm average with social media and graphics apps.

Leanne Bartlett: QLD



An NRHA Worldwide judge & Professional Horseman I live in Canungra on the Gold Coast Hinterland and have been judging, training, showing and conducting clinics for over 35 years. Showing in every AQHA event in the rule book with numerous State & National Titles. I have embraced and supported Ranch and the RHAA since its inception. Qualifications include; AQHA Professional Horseman, AmQHA Professional Horseman, AQHA & RHAA Accredited Versatility Ranch Level 2, AmQHA Oceanic Judge, AmQHA Specialised Reining Judge, APHA Judge & professional horseman. I am currently enjoying showing in both ridden ranch and led prospect classes. I have been on the RHAA committee since its inception in 2022.



Steve Crowe: VICTORIA



With over 20+ years running a successful business in the equine industry, I bring extensive experience and success in training, competition, and horsemanship both in Australia and the U.S. My family has been deeply involved in the western industry for generations, fostering a lifelong passion for horses and ranch work. I'm committed to supporting and promoting the values of the Ranch Horse Association of Australia. Respected by peers and known for a strong work ethic, I aim to contribute positively to the association's future, helping uphold its standards while encouraging growth and participation across all levels..

Michelle Garratt: NSW



Having commenced showing both quarter horses & Paints at National Level as a 13 year old, Michelle quickly found her passion and skills and showed her first clients horse as a 19 year old. Having bred, started and trained hundreds of National, State and Open Futurity Champions in Halter, HUS, WP, reining and versatility ranch Michelle brings a wealth of show knowledge and experience to the table. A committee member from inception on the HBGA (Halter Breeders Group Association) and the Central Coast Quarter Horse Association, Michelle has recognised the potential of Ranch in Australia and loves the support offered to those new to showing on all breeds of horse. As an RHAA committee member, Michelle is focused on the growth and development of all members.



Jo Ham: VICTORIA



Hi, I have been involved in the introduction of ranch into Australia from the outset. I am very passionate about what the ranch horse discipline brings to the horse world and excited to see it grow. I am one of the founding members for the Ballarat Ranch Horse Association, have been a member of the Vic State committee, helping to run two very successful State shows and have spent the past 12 months on the National committee as a general member.

I would like to continue to be a general committee member with the RHAA and be a representative for Victoria, as believe I can help contribute to its success at all levels.

Lionel Heath: SOUTH AUSTRALIA



I live in the Barossa Valley South Australia. I don't come from a horsey background and didn't really start riding again until 2018 and even then when I started again I told my wife I was only going to do trail riding and nothing else. Since making that statement to my wife I have got into Team penning, Stockman challenges and the like and recently Ranch. Currently I am on the committee for RHASA a new Ranch club in SA in the role as Vice President and serve as the secretary for the Adelaide Hills Team Penning Association for 3 yrs. I look forward to the opportunity to be on the RHAA committee and representing SA



Barbara Jones: NSW



Thank you for the opportunity to remain with the RHAA committee. I have been with the RHAA from the inception as the Secretary for the first 2 years. The last 12 months as general committee member. My role on committee has been large and expansive maintaining EOY & LTE High points, the Horse Number Registry, approving show applications and the driving force behind our Affiliate program. Assisting with both the National Show and QLD State show updating the Web Site with draws, results and Judges Score sheets. I believe I would be an ongoing asset to the RHAA Organisation

Jess McKee: SOUTH AUSTRALIA



My family and I own and run a station on the VIC/SA border. I have a passion and love for western showing and travel across SA, VIC and NSW to show my Quarter Horse; attending all level of shows from club shows, to State Shows, and the AQHA Nationals. I absolutely love showing and have a great knowledge base. I am lucky enough to be on the General Committee for a Ranch club in SA, who are passionate about helping people and creating shows that have "something for everyone" and a very inclusive, supportive, encouraging environment. I love being a part of Ranch in SA and welcome the opportunity to help the RHAA grow, and support Ranch as a whole.



Lorelei Payne: QLD



I am a AQHA Professional Horseman Level 3. AQHA Accredited Judge
AQHA Level 2 Versatility Ranch Judge, RHAA Ranch Judge, EA international Judge
Australian Western Dressage Judge, HSAA Judge. For 28 years I was an Honorary Council
Steward for the Qld RNA . I am on the current Board of Directors for the AQHA and have
been serving the board for the last 10 years. I have been on the RHAA committee for 2
years and have successfully helped run the Qld State RHAA Show with our subcommittee. I
am committed to help and move forward with the continuous growth of the RHAA.

Lani Small: WESTERN AUSTRALIA



As founding president of Western Australia's first RHAA-affiliated ranch club, I'm passionate about growing this sport from the ground up. Known as *The Late To Bloom Cowgirl*, I use my social media platform to promote ranch and support riders rebuilding confidence or starting later in life. Though new to ranch, I believe I bring authenticity and a deep love for the sport and its people. I believe in inclusive, fair competition and building strong community connections. I'd be honoured to bring a fresh voice to the RHAA committee.



Kim Thake: QLD



Hi my name is Kim Thake I am from Widgee QLD where I run my business as a saddler and have had a lifelong involvement with western horses and western performance events and began showing as a youth with a Palouse pony in 1994. Since then I have shown Appaloosas, Paints and Quarter horses in nearly every western performance event offered to National level and currently breed and show Paints and Quarter horses focusing on Ranch events.

While I had been interested in ranch roping and ranch versatility type events for some years prior I started to follow the VRH events more closely after seeing some of the videos from the first AQHA VRH world show in 2008 and thinking this is the event I'd been waiting for and couldn't wait for it to get started here in Australia. Ranch versatility truly is one of the few events that show cases versatility our horses encouraging the development both horse and rider of all shapes, sizes and ability levels into solid partners capable of getting a job done.

I have been a judge since 2014 and in that time have held qualifications with the HSAA, NRCHA and currently hold tickets with the AQHA as an accredited performance judge and level 2 ranch versatility judge and with the RHAA as a level 2 versatility judge. In my time as a judge i have been privileged and honoured to have been invited to judge multiple state and national shows including the first RHAA national show.

Over the years I have been involved in many committees and in the last year have served on the committees for the RHAA, Tropicana and the South East QLD Paint Horse Club and I hope to be elected to the RHAA again this year to help promote this great event.