Ambassador Awards

VAS Ltd promotes and coordinates the Junior Show & Rural Ambassador Award Program that encourages and supports young people living in rural and regional Victoria. The award highlights Community and Show involvement, talent, creativity and ingenuity of young Victorians. The program engages young show enthusiasts to showcase their involvement across their local communities.

VAS Ltd wants to showcase the Emerging Leaders of the State and these programs aim to allow young people to represent their Show Society/Community. The programs allow participants to develop their personal skills through interview experience, on-stage presentation, meeting new people with similar interests and developing interpersonal skills.

Hot Tips for Organisers

- VAS suggests that there is a coordinator for the award at your local Show that can help promote and encourage participants to enter.
- At a local Show an interview process can be undertaken and judged to the criteria.
- Previous Ambassadors from your local Show can make great ambassador judges or mentors.
- Show Societies may need to ask or approach a younger person involved in their Show Society to represent them and get involved in the competition.
- The VAS Members Area has scoresheets for each competition available for you to access.

Questions that could be asked in Interviews or On-Stage Interviews

- What involvement do you have in your local Community/local Show?
- Identify any major setbacks that you believe are impacting the running of Agricultural Shows at present and long term. How would you address them?
- What are the three main products produced around your local area?
- How do you think you can involve the younger generation in getting involved in the community or local Show?
- What are your goals and ambitions in the next 10 years?
- Why did you get involved in this competition?

VAS Ltd Rural Ambassador → Show Level → Group Level → State Level - Royal Melbourne Show

VAS Ltd Junior Show Ambassador → Show Level → Group Level → State Level Annual Convention

Rural Ambassador Award

Proudly Sponsored by MELBOURNE ROYAL Gallagher RB SELLARS

Rules & Regulations - Rural Ambassador Award

- Open to ambassadors aged between 20 and 30 years as of the 1st May 2024 and the finalist must reside in Victoria.
- Each Show can run a Rural Ambassador Show qualifier and the winner at Show Level then represents the Show at the Group Final.
- An ambassador having won at their local Show Level is not eligible to enter any other Show or represent another group.
- A maximum of 12 finalists will be eligible for the State Final with preference to all Group Final winners and each runner up of each group will be considered. If numbers exceed 12 finalist's interviews will be held at the information day to determine the remaining State Finalists.
- The State Final is held at the Melbourne Royal Show and each finalist is judged based on the criteria below.
- Each Finalist will need to supply a resume with a cover letter and a draft/copy of speech for the State Final, which will be given to the judges of the State Final.
- Each Finalist will be interviewed by a panel of three judges and the State Finalist will need to present at speech at the presentation luncheon. The winner will be announced at the presentation luncheon.

Judging Criteria

- **Local Show Involvement (25 Points)** – Entrants must demonstrate an active involvement and a desire to be involved in the future and improvement of their Local Show Society.
- **Community Involvement (20 Points)** - Entrants must demonstrate an active involvement and a desire to be involved in the future and improvement of their Local Community.
- **General and Rural Knowledge (20 Points)** – Entrants must demonstrate a broad general knowledge and an awareness of Local/National Community issues. Entrant must also have an understanding of current affairs relating to rural life and industry.
- **Personality & Communication Skills (20 Points)** – Personality Traits consistent with both the awards and the entrant's ambitions and goals will be assessed (e.g. enthusiasm, creativity, confidence, leadership). Also, entrants are expected to demonstrate effective communication skills – written, oral and interpersonal.
- **Ambitions/Goals/Interests (15 Points)** - Each Entrants ambitions and goals will be assessed on their integrity and relevance to the award. Entrants must demonstrate steps towards achieving their goal.
- **Style, Grooming & Presentation (10 Points)** – Entrants presentation will be assessed according to the suitability of their attire and conduct in a range of contexts.
- **Conduct (10 Points)** – How the entrant behaves and demonstrates appropriate behaviour in each setting eg. being polite, well dressed and soft spoken.
- **Public Presentation (3-minute speech) (20 Points)** – Entrants public presentation will be assessed according to the quality of the content, delivery and the extent to which it addresses the set topic.

State Final Prizemoney

- **Winner:** $3000.00 Prizemoney (includes travel to represent Victoria at the Nationals Finals) & VAS State Final Trophy
- **Runner Up:** $1500.00 Prizemoney

Junior Show Ambassador Award

Proudly Sponsored by Gallagher

Rules & Regulations - Junior Show Ambassador

- Open to ambassadors aged between 16 and 19 years on the day of their Local Show.
- Each Show can run a Junior Show Ambassador Show qualifier and the winner at Show Level then represents the Show at the Group Final.
- An ambassador having won at their Local Show Level is not eligible to enter any other Show or represent another group.
- The winner of the Group Final then represents the Group at the State Final, which is held at the annual VAS Convention.
- Each Finalist will be judged based on the criteria below.
- At the State Final the Finalists will need to provide a cover letter and resume that will be given to the judges.
- Each Finalist will be interviewed by a panel of three judges and the winner will be announced at the Convention Dinner.

Judging Criteria

- **Local Show Involvement (15 Points)** – Entrants must demonstrate an active involvement and a desire to be involved in the future and improvement of their Local Show Society.
- **Community Involvement (10 Points)** - Entrants must demonstrate an active involvement and a desire to be involved in the future and improvement of their Local Community.
- **General and Rural Knowledge (15 Points)** – Entrants must demonstrate a broad general knowledge and an awareness of Local/National Community issues. Entrant must also have an understanding of current affairs relating to rural life and industry.
- **Personality and Confidence (10 Points)** – Personality Traits consistent with both the awards and the entrant's ambitions and goals will be assessed (e.g. enthusiasm, creativity, confidence, leadership).
- **Ambitions/Goals (20 Points)** - Each Entrant's ambitions and goals will be assessed on their integrity and relevance to the awards. Entrants must demonstrate steps towards achieving their goal.
- **Communication Skills (20 Points)** – Entrants are expected to demonstrate effective communication skills – written, oral and interpersonal.
- **Presentation and Grooming (10 Points)** – Entrant's presentation will be assessed according to the suitability of their attire and conduct in a range of contexts.

State Final Prizemoney

- **Winner:** $500.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
- **Runner Up:** $250.00 Prizemoney
- **Finalist:** Each Group winner receives a travel allowance towards the cost of attending the State Final

VAS Ltd Rich Fruit Cake

Open to all fruit cake enthusiasts

Rules and Regulations

1. The entrant must follow the recipe and specifications provided below.
2. Each cake entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
3. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
4. The Rich Fruit Cake competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
5. An exhibitor having won at their local Show will bake another cake for the 2024 Group Final and then the winner of the Group Final will bake another cake for the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
6. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Rich Fruit Cake Competition at any other show until after the Group Final judging.
7. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
8. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
9. The State Final prizes are: **First:** $200.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
   Second: $100.00 Prizemoney
   Third: $50.00 Prizemoney

Recipe

Ingredients – Preferred 100% Australian Grown Produce

- 250g sultanas
- 250g chopped raisins
- 250g currants
- 125g chopped mixed peel
- 90g chopped red glace cherries
- 90g chopped blanched almonds
- 1/3 cup sherry or brandy
- 250g plain flour
- 60g self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 250g butter
- 250g soft brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon essence OR finely grated lemon rind
- 1/2 teaspoon almond essence
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 4 large eggs

Method

Cut the fruit & almonds into 3-4 pieces and mix together all the fruits and nuts and sprinkle with the sherry or brandy. Cover and leave for at least 1 hour, but preferably overnight.

Sift together the flours and spices. Cream together the butter and sugar with the essences. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition, and then alternately add the fruit and flour mixtures. Mix thoroughly. The mixture should be stiff enough to support a wooden spoon.

Place the mixture into a prepared tin **20 cm square, straight sided, square cornered tin** and bake in a slow oven for approximately 3½ - 4 hours. Allow the cake to cool in the tin.

VAS Ltd Junior Boiled Fruit Cake

SHOWING VICTORIA

Open to junior bakers under 18 years on the day of their Local Show

Rules and Regulations

1. The entrant must follow the recipe and specifications provided below.
2. The entrant must be under 18 years on the day of their local Show.
3. Each cake entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
4. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
5. The Junior Boiled Fruit Cake competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
6. An exhibitor having won at their Local Show will bake another cake for the 2024 Group Final and then the winner of the Group Final will bake another cake for the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
7. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Junior Boiled Fruit Cake Competition at any other show until after the Group Final judging.
8. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
9. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
10. The State Final prizes are: **First:** $200.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
    Second: $100.00 Prizemoney
    Third: $50.00 Prizemoney

Recipe

Ingredients - Preferred 100% Australian Grown Produce

- 375g mixed fruit
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- ½ cup water
- 125g butter
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- ½ cup sherry
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons marmalade
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup plain flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Method

Place the mixed fruit, sugar, spice, water and butter in a large saucepan and bring to the boil.

Simmer gently for 3 minutes, then remove from stove, add bicarbonate soda and allow to cool.
Add the sherry, eggs and marmalade, mixing well.

Fold in the sifted dry ingredients then place in a greased and lined **20cm round cake tin.**

Bake in a moderately slow oven for 1.5 hours or until cooked when tested.

VAS Ltd Carrot Cake

Proudly Sponsored by Rocky Lamattina & Sons

Open to all carrot cake enthusiasts

Rules and Regulations

1. The entrant must follow the recipe and specifications provided below.
2. Each cake entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
3. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
4. The carrot cake competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
5. An exhibitor having won at their Local Show will bake another cake for the 2024 Group Final and then the winner of the Group Final will bake another cake for the 2024 State Final at the Annual VAS Ltd Convention.
6. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Carrot Cake Competition at any other show until after the Group Final judging.
7. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
8. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
9. The State Final prizes are:

   First: $250.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
   Second: $100.00 Prizemoney
   Third: $50.00 Prizemoney

Recipe

Ingredients

- 375g plain flour
- 2tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp bicarb soda
- 2tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp allspice
- 2tsp salt
- 345g castor sugar
- 375ml vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 3 medium carrots, grated (350 grams)
- 220g tin crushed pineapple, drained
- 180g pecan nuts coarsely crushed

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C (160C fan), Grease a 23cm (9 inch) round cake tin and line with baking paper.
2. Sift the dry ingredients together into a bowl. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs and oil, then add to the dry ingredients. Mix well then add the carrots, crushed pineapple and pecans. Mix to form a smooth batter and pour into the cake tin.
3. Bake for approximately 90 - 100 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 10 minutes in the tin on a wire rack. Upend and allow to cool on the wire rack.

VAS Ltd Junior Carrot & Date Muffins

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Rocky Lamattina & Sons

Open to junior bakers under 18 years on the day of their Local Show

Rules and Regulations

1. The entrant must follow the recipe and specifications provided below.
2. The entrant must be under 18 years on the day of their Local Show.
3. Each cake entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
4. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
5. The Junior Carrot & Date Muffins competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
6. An exhibitor having won at their Local Show will bake another set of muffins for the 2024 Group Final and then the winner of the Group Final will bake another set of muffins for the 2024 State Final at Annual VAS Ltd Convention.
7. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Junior Carrot & Date Muffins Competition at any other show until after the Group Final judging.
8. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
9. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
10. The State Final prizes are:

First: $250.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
Second: $100.00 Prizemoney
Third: $50.00 Prizemoney

Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups self-raising flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 cup brown sugar (firmly packed)
- 1/3 cup chopped pitted dates
- 1 cup coarsely grated carrot
- 1 tbsp orange marmalade
- 1 cup canola oil
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- ¾ cup orange juice
- 1 cup reduced fat milk

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 190C (moderately hot).
2. Line a 12-hole muffin pan with round paper muffin cases - Classic white muffin cases size (35mm Height x 90mm Wide x 50mm Base).
3. Sift dry ingredients into a large bowl, stir in dates and carrots. Then add the combined marmalade, oil, eggs, juice and milk. Mix until just combined.
4. Spoon mixture evenly into muffin paper cases in muffin pan.
5. Cook for 20 minutes. To test if muffins are cooked insert cake skewer, if it comes out clean the muffins are ready.
6. Stand muffins in pan for 5 minutes before removing to cool.
7. Show Entries: Four (4) muffins per paper plate.

VAS Ltd Sewing Competition

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight

Rules and Regulations

1. **WEARABLE VEST, FULLY LINED WITH EMBELLISHMENTS ALLOWED.**
2. Sewn by machine.
3. May be hand finished.
4. Knitted/Crocheted items not acceptable.
5. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
6. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
7. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
8. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
9. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
10. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Sewing Competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
11. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
12. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
13. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
14. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Crochet Competition

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight

Rules and Regulations

1. **A 3D ITEM, NO LARGER THAN 50CMS ON ANY ONE SIDE MADE FROM PURE WOOL/ WOOL BLEND OF ANY PLY.**
2. Exhibitor to attach label from wool used or receipt from the woollen mill.
3. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
4. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
5. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
6. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
7. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
8. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Crochet competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
9. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
10. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
11. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
12. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Patchwork Competition

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight SPOTLIGHT

Rules and Regulations

1. **THE EXHIBIT IS TO BE NOT MORE THAN ONE METRE ON ANY ONE SIDE.**
2. Machine/hand pieced and quilted by exhibitor only.
3. Minimal Embellishments. Small amount only, not to overpower patchwork.
4. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
5. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
6. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
7. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
8. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
9. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Patchwork competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
10. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
11. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
12. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
13. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Knitting Competition

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight

Rules and Regulations

1. **A HAND KNITTED BLANKET NOT MORE THAN 1 METRE ON ANY ONE SIDE**
2. Knitted in one piece, minimum of 5 different stitches (patterns).
3. Each exhibit must be made from pure wool/wool blend of any ply.
4. Exhibitor to attach label from wool used or receipt from the woollen mill.
5. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
6. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
7. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
8. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
9. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
10. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Knitting competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
11. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
12. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
13. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
14. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Embroidery Competition

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT

Rules and Regulations

1. **THE EXHIBIT TO BE AN ARTICLE OF HAND EMBROIDERY ANY TYPE, EXCLUDING CROSS STITCH.**
2. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
3. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
4. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
5. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
6. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
7. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Embroidery competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
8. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
9. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
10. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
11. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Cross Stitch Competition

SHOWING VICTORIA

Proudly Sponsored by Spotlight

Rules and Regulations

1. **THE EXHIBIT TO BE AN ARTICLE OF CROSS STITCH ANY TYPE UP TO 60CMS ON ALL SIDES INCLUDING FRAME. MINIMAL EMBELLISHMENTS ALLOWED.**
2. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
3. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
4. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
5. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
6. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
7. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Cross Stitch competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
8. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
9. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
10. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
11. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

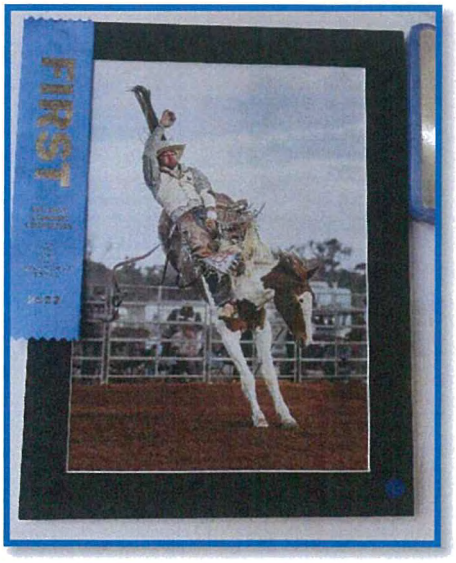
State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $300.00 Spotlight Voucher & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $150.00 Spotlight Voucher
Third Prize: $50.00 Spotlight Voucher

VAS Ltd Senior Photography

Rules and Regulations

1. **THEME FOR 2023/24 – <u>ANIMAL/S IN ACTION.</u>**
2. Unframed.
3. Print no larger than 20cm by 30cm.
4. Must be mounted on thick card (mount no larger than 3cm).
5. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
6. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
7. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
8. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
9. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
10. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Photography competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
11. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
12. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
13. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
14. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $70.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $20.00 Prizemoney
Third Prize: $10.00 Prizemoney



VAS Ltd Junior Photography

Rules and Regulations

1. **THEME FOR 2023/24 – ANIMAL/S IN ACTION.**
2. Exhibitors to be aged under 18 years on the day of their Local Show.
3. Unframed.
4. Print no larger than 20cm by 30cm.
5. Must be mounted on thick card (mount no larger than 3cm).
6. **Professionals are not eligible**, which is defined as someone that works professionally or derives the greater percentage of their income in that craft, art form or technique.
7. Each exhibit entered must be the bona fide work of the exhibitor.
8. All work is to have been completed in the last twelve (12) months prior to its entry at a local Show.
9. The competition follows the three levels of competition: Show Level, Group Level and State Level.
10. An exhibit having won at a Show will compete at the 2024 Group Final. The winning exhibit at the Group Final will then compete in the State Final at the 2024 Melbourne Royal Show.
11. An exhibitor having won at Show Level is not eligible to enter the VAS Junior Photography competition at any other Show until after the Group Final judging.
12. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final.
13. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final Level, then the second placegetter is eligible to compete.
14. An exhibit having won at State Final is no longer eligible to compete in the competition.
15. If an exhibitor is found to have won more than one Group Final the exhibitor must forfeit/refund all prizes and will be disqualified from exhibiting for 12 months.

State Final Prizes:
First Prize: $30.00 Prizemoney & VAS State Final Trophy
Second Prize: $15.00 Prizemoney
Third Prize: $10.00 Prizemoney

Livestock Competitions

Summary

All livestock competitions are Grouped together as they follow a two-step process from Show Level to State Level selecting a winner of the following competitions to represent Victoria at the ASA National Finals:

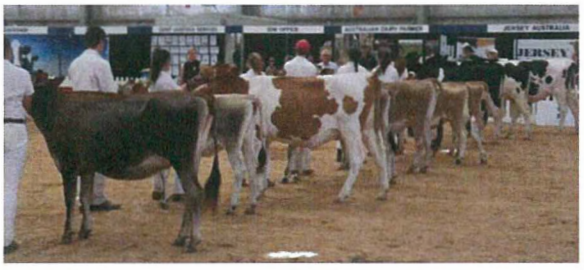
- Beef Cattle Judging & Parading
- Dairy Cattle Judging & Parading
- Merino Sheep Judging
- Merino Fleece Judging
- Meat Breeds Sheep Judging
- Poultry Judging
- Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging

All judging competitions are conducted under the ASA (Agricultural Shows Australia) Guidelines, which can be found on the ASA website or VAS website. If you would like further information on how to conduct these competitions, please contact the VAS Ltd office.

VAS Ltd allows First and Second Placegetters at a Local Show to compete in the next level of the State Final. The competitors must be aged 15 years and under 25 years as of the 1st May in the year of State Final and must reside in Victoria.

The winner of each State Final will be invited to represent Victoria at the Agricultural Shows Australia National Finals. The National Finals are held on a rotation basis, the 2024 National Finals will be held in Victoria.

State Final Prizes:
First: Sash & VAS State Final Trophy
Second: Sash
Third: Sash



Beef Cattle Parading & Judging

State Final Beef Cattle Parading Rules & Regulations

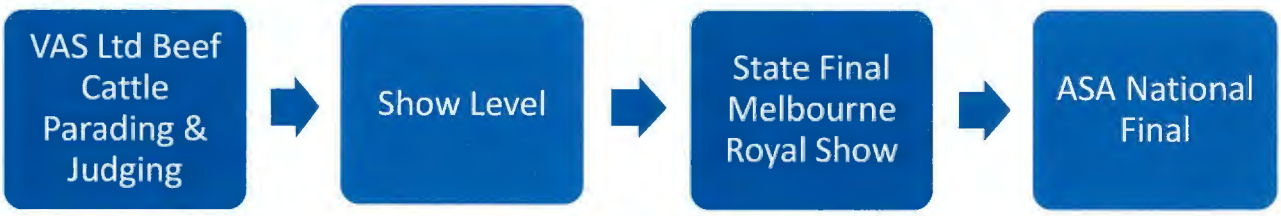
1. Parader competitions are conducted under the ASA regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Show Level Beef Cattle Parading Rules & Regulations

1. Age of parader must be 8 years & over as of the day of the Show.
2. Parader must be attired in suitable clothing including solid shoes or boots.
3. The parader must lead a heifer under 2 years as of the day of the Show only.
4. Paraders animal must be eligible for breed registration with their respective breed society or entered in an ordinary class with details of exhibit on the respective Show/Event entry form for insurance purposes.
5. The judge may ask the parader to swap animals if required.
6. Adult or steward assistance is acceptable for a parader under 12 years. (Preferred that parents or siblings are not the assistance)
7. Competitions can be split into several age groups depending on the number of entries and level of experience.
8. Parader competitions are conducted under the VAS & ASA regulations.

Beef Cattle Judging Rules & Regulations

1. Competitions can be split into several age groups depending on the number of entries and level of experience.
2. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA & VAS Ltd regulations.
3. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
4. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.



Dairy Cattle Parading & Judging

State Final Dairy Cattle Parading Rules & Regulations

1. Parader competitions are conducted under the ASA regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Show Level Dairy Cattle Parading Rules & Regulations

1. Age of parader must be 8 years & over as of the day of the Show.
2. Parader must be attired in suitable clothing including solid shoes or boots.
3. The parader must lead a heifer under 2 years as of the day of the Show only.
4. Paraders animal must be eligible for breed registration with their respective breed society or entered in an ordinary class with details of exhibit on the respective Show/Event entry form for insurance purposes.
5. The judge may ask the parader to swap animals if required.
6. Adult or steward assistance is acceptable for a parader under 12 years. (Preferred that parents or siblings are not the assistance)
7. Competitions can be split into several age groups depending on the number of entries and level of experience.
8. Parader competitions are conducted under the VAS & ASA regulations.

Dairy Cattle Judging Rules & Regulations

1. Competitions can be split into several age groups depending on the number of entries and level of experience.
2. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA & VAS Ltd regulations.
3. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
4. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Sheep/Fleece Judging

Merino Sheep Judging

Proudly Sponsored by Riverina Wool

Rules & Regulations

1. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA & VAS Ltd regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Merino Fleece Judging

Proudly Sponsored by Riverina Wool

Rules & Regulations

1. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA & VAS Ltd regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Meat Breeds Sheep Judging

Rules & Regulations

1. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA & VAS Ltd regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

Poultry Judging

State Final Poultry Judging Rules & Regulations

1. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

VAS Ltd Poultry Judging → Show Level → State Final Melbourne Royal Show → ASA National Final

Alpaca (Animal & Fleece) Judging

State Final Alpaca Judging Rules & Regulations

1. Judging competitions are conducted under the ASA regulations.
2. Competitors must be 15 years and under 25 years of age on the 1st May in the year of the State Final and must reside within Victoria.
3. First & Second Placegetters are eligible to compete in the State Final.

VAS Ltd Alpaca Judging → Show Level → State Final Melbourne Royal Show → ASA National Final

Merino Fleece Competition

Overview of Competition – This competition is currently under review and will be notified of the outcome in due course.

All Shows that run a Merino Fleece competition will be eligible to submit a Merino fleece in the three classes as specified below to Group Level. Winning fleeces of each class at Group Level will represent the Group at the State Final. Event to be confirmed for State Final.

The three classes are:

- Fine (19 micron & finer)
- Medium (19.1 micron – 21 micron)
- Strong (21.1 micron & stronger)

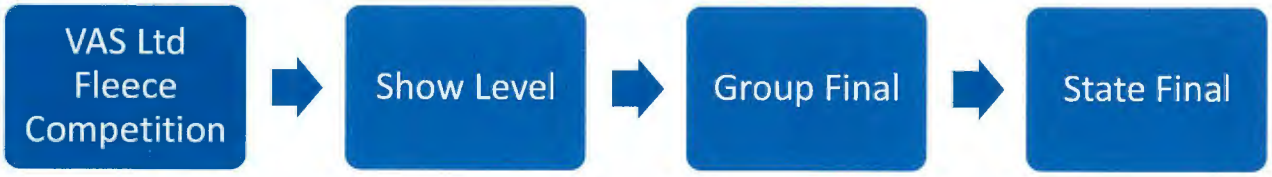
Each Show has the option to nominate the winners from their ordinary merino fleece classes or they can run the three separate classes as solely a VAS Merino Fleece Competition. The winner of each class may be either stud or commercial fleeces however the fleeces must fit the criteria of micron range.

General Rules & Regulations

1. Exhibitors having won in classes of Fine, Medium and Strong Wool Sections at Show Level will be eligible for the Group Final. The same fleece must be used in all three levels (Show, Group & State) of the competition.
2. Class winners & runners up of each class at the Group Final will be eligible for the State Final.
3. Each Show/Group is responsible to arrange with the exhibitor methods of delivery and collection of fleeces at Group & State Final. If assistance is required with this, please contact the VAS Ltd office.
4. All fleeces to be returned to the owner at the completion of the State Final.
5. All fleeces will be judged as per the current recommendations set out by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia.
6. An exhibitor is only eligible to represent one Group in the State Final in each class.
7. Each Fleece entered must be a bona fide product of the exhibitor.
8. If for any reason a winner is unable to compete at Group or State Final level, then the second-place getter is eligible to compete.
9. Entrant details of each winning class from Show Level must be submitted to the respective Group Secretary. Group Secretaries will provide each class winner and runner up details to the VAS Office, which will contact each winner and runner up regarding the State Final.
10. An appointed judge for the State Final will be selected by Australian Wool Network and VAS Ltd Livestock & Agricultural Competitions committee.

Sponsored by:

State Final Prizes for Each Category (Fine, Medium & Strong)
First: $100.00 & VAS State Final Trophy
Second: $75.00 prizemoney
Third: $50.00 prizemoney



Dog High Jump

Rules & Regulations

1. This competition is a test of the dog's jumping ability.
2. The competition is open to all dogs of all shapes and sizes.
3. The dog is permitted to jump on to or over the jump.
4. A dog who has won at a Local Show/Field Day Level will qualify for the State Final.
5. A dog can represent only one Local Show/Field Day.
6. All dogs not competing must be on a lead with a handler in the marshalling area behind the competition area.
7. Competition area should be 15 metres long by 8 metres wide.
8. Only one dog may be loose in the competition area at any one time.
9. There must be a handler at the top of the jump to act as a catcher if necessary, and a handler as a catcher at the bottom.
10. The dog's owner must supply one extra handler.
11. A ladder will be provided for the handler.
12. Each dog is allowed three attempts at each height.
13. In the event of two dogs jumping the same height, the winner shall be determined as the dog that took the least number of attempts for the wining height.
14. A dog may compete on a loose lead.
15. If the dog is not on a loose lead the dog must be released at a minimum of three metres from the jump.
16. Any mishandling or misuse of a dog will incur immediate disqualification.
17. If, in the opinion of the stewards, a dog is unsafe to other competitors or the public, it will be withdrawn from the competition.
18. The jumps should be constructed according to the following specifications:
    - The top must be a minimum of 600mm wide and covered with carpet or similar material
    - If your society is considering constructing a dog jump, please contact the VAS office for detailed plans
19. Classes
    - Small dog class under 50cms
    - Medium dog class 50cms and less than 60cms
    - Large dog class 60cms and over
20. If since competing at a Local Show/Field Day, a winning dog has grown in height that dog must compete in the appropriate height class at the State Final.

State Final Prizes:
First place in each class: Sash
Second place in each class: Sash
Third place in each class: Sash

VAS Ltd Dog High Jump → Show Level → State Final Ballarat Show

Young Farmers Challenge

The Australian Young Farmer Challenge (AYFC) is an engaging, entertaining and fast paced competition for young rural people (aged 18 – 35 years). The AYFC is a demonstration of the talent, skills, techniques and safe work methods that young farmers use every day.

Teams compete in a series of skills-based challenges related to farming with a strong emphasis on technique and safety. Competitors are asked to do their best to complete the challenges correctly against the clock, as well to focus on safety, and most importantly, enjoy the competition and provide entertainment to the audience.

Currently VAS Ltd is working with the Melbourne Royal to develop the Young Farmers Challenge in Victoria with the State Final being held at the Melbourne Royal Show each year.

Rules & Regulations

1. Eligible Teams
    a. Consist of four (4) Competitors
    b. Have both male and female competitors. All female or all male teams are not eligible to enter.
    c. Have Competitors with minimum skills required depending on the competition activities such as:
        i. Hold a current drivers licence recognised by an Australian State or Territory.
        ii. Be capable of hitching a trailer to a car and backing the trailer.
        iii. Be competent at handling livestock, including horses, sheep and cattle.
2. Eligible Competitors
    a. Have Competitors aged between 18 and 35 years of age on the day the National AYFC takes place. Competitors may be required to provide proof of age.
    b. Competitors must reside in the State they are representing for the National YFC Competition or be within 50km of their State's border.
    c. Compete at their own risk.
    d. Undertake all Competition activities in a safe manner.
    e. Wear appropriate clothing to compete.
3. Competition Guidelines
    a. The winning Team will be the Team that completes all the challenges correctly, in a safe manner and in the fastest time.
    b. Each Team will have a dedicated judge that watches each challenge of the Competition. The Judge will determine when the Team is permitted to move onto the next challenge. The Judge's decision is final.
    c. The Team will be permitted to progress when each challenge has been completed correctly and safely.
    d. The Team must complete every challenge safely and using the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
    e. Any errors made during each challenge will result in the Team having to re-do the challenge to complete it correctly, or receive a time penalty, based on the nature of the challenge.
    f. Teams can incur a time penalty for safety breaches.
    g. Teams may be disqualified in the event of a multiple safety breaches and/or dangerous activity affecting Competitors, Officials or spectator.

Please refer to the ASA website for all Young Farmer Challenge Materials:
https://agshowsaustralia.org.au/youth-in-agriculture/australian-young-farmer-challenge/

Background of the Championships

The VAS Ltd Saddle Horse Championships began in 1996. The VASA committee introduced an event that would not only Showcase champion horses and riders from across Victoria, but in turn increase exhibitor numbers at Agricultural Shows.

The 'Best of the Best' event has grown steadily and is now recognised as a competitor friendly Championships'.

The championships have developed over the years with now holding multiple State Finals at the Championships including the Racing Victoria Off the Track Series, Alabar HERO Series and the Good Hands Challenge Trophy.

Qualifications

The qualifications for the championships are taken from 1st January 2023 to 11th December 2023 including the Kingston Show. For each section there are requirements for qualifications:

Open Classes: 1 Champion or 2 Reserve Champions or 2 First Places at VAS Ltd Affiliated Shows

Rising Star & First Season: Must have attended & competed at 3 VAS Ltd Affiliated Shows

Rider Classes: First Place or 2 Second Places at a VAS Ltd Affiliated Shows

All information regarding the Saddle Horse Championships can be found on the following link: http://www.vicagshows.com.au/saddle-horse

Good Hands Challenge Trophy

Proudly Sponsored by Sporthorse Saddlery

Open to girls and boys aged 10 years and under 15 years on the day of the Local Show

Rules & Regulations – Local Show

1. The VAS Good Hands Challenge Trophy is conducted at the VAS Saddle Horse Championships.
2. The VAS Good Hands Challenge Trophy is open to boys and girls aged **10 years and under 15 years** on the day of the Local Show.
3. All VAS Affiliated Shows are invited to hold the qualifying competitions. Show societies are encouraged to run one class at the Local Show which includes girls and boys.
4. The competitors shall be judged solely on their riding ability - mount, saddlery or costume will not be taken into account.
5. Special attention will be paid to hands and seat, general management and control of the horse or pony.
6. Competitors must ride using an ordinary snaffle, single jointed in the centre. The mouthpiece must be smooth and made of the same type of metal, with or without a cavesson on the noseband.
7. A gear check may take place.
8. **Please note straight bar snaffle, drop nosebands, whips and spurs are not allowed.**

Rules & Regulations – State Final

1. The VAS Good Hands Challenge Trophy is conducted at the VAS Saddle Horse Championships as one class for girls and boys.
2. No entry fee will be charged but the entrant must fill out VAS Saddle Horse Championships entry form.
3. The VAS 'Good Hands Challenge Trophy' Competition shall be judged on the same basis as the qualifying competitions, but the Judge shall require: Five Finalists to execute a figure 8 at a canter, ride away from the Judge, return at a slow canter, stop at the Judge's signal and back.
4. Equipment used must be as for the Qualifying Competition as specified above.
5. The names of the winner will be engraved on the perpetual trophy.
6. The winners of the 'Good Hands Challenge Trophy' will be eligible to compete in future years, subject to the age of the competitor.
7. VAS Ltd may, at its discretion, vary the conditions governing the qualifying and Championship Competitions.

State Final Prizes
Winner: Receives VAS Ltd State Final Trophy
Top 5: Sashes and Prize Pack sponsored by State sponsor Sporthorse Saddlery

Off The Track Ridden Series

Show Level & State Final will now be split into Open & Show Hunter Qualifiers.

*Racing Victoria's Off The Track Ridden **Open** Series*

Show Level
Sash & $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified. (Prize pack collected at State Final).

*Racing Victoria's Off The Track Ridden **Show Hunter** Series*

Show Level
Sash & $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified. (Prize pack collected at State Final).

2023/24 Series Qualifier Regulations

1. **Open to any thoroughbred horse bred to race that has been stud book registered, either domestically with the Australian Stud Book or Internationally.** Registrations will be checked by VAS office.
2. Racing name to be used where appropriate. When entering if name is different to racing name, please provide the following details (if known)
   - Racing name
   - Microchip number
   - Life Number
   - Registration Certificate Number
   - Dam and Sire
   - Date horse retired
3. Riders to be 12 years and over on day of qualifying Show.
4. Qualifying Shows must be VAS Ltd Affiliated.
5. Qualifying classes will be judged ridden.
6. Once a qualifier has won, the horse cannot compete at another Show qualifier in that calendar year.
7. All qualifying winners gain automatic entry into the Racing Victoria's Off The Track Ridden Open or Show Hunter Series State Final to be held at the VAS Ltd Saddle Horse Championships.
8. To be judged as a good example of an Off the Track Thoroughbred, (rather than riding horse/hunter types), with the following being taken into consideration:
   - Thoroughbred qualities
   - Conformation
   - Manners, paces and performance
   - Injuries caused through racing such as blemishes are allowed
9. Judge's decision is Final in Qualifiers and State Final.
10. Show Qualifier Prizes: Sash, $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified by Racing Victoria (Prize pack collected at State Final).

Off The Track Led Series

Show Level & State Final will now be split into Open & Show Hunter Qualifiers.

*Racing Victoria's Off The Track Led **Open** Series*

Show Level
Sash & $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified. (Prize pack collected at State Final).

*Racing Victoria's Off The Track Led **Show Hunter** Series*

Show Level
Sash & $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified. (Prize pack collected at State Final).

2023/24 Series Qualifier Regulations

1. **Open to any thoroughbred horse bred to race that has been stud book registered, either domestically with the Australian Stud Book or Internationally.** Registrations will be checked by VAS office.
2. Racing name to be used where appropriate. When entering if name is different to racing name, please provide the following details (if known)
   - Racing name
   - Microchip number
   - Life Number
   - Registration Certificate Number
   - Dam and Sire
   - Date horse retired
3. Qualifying Shows must be VAS Ltd affiliated.
4. Qualifying classes will be judged led.
5. Once a qualifier has won, the horse cannot compete at another Show qualifier in that calendar year.
6. All qualifying winners gain automatic entry into the Racing Victoria's Off The Track Led Open or Show Hunter Series State Final to be held at the VAS Ltd Saddle Horse Championships.
7. To be judged as a good example of an Off the Track Thoroughbred, (rather than riding horse/hunter types), with the following being taken into consideration:
   - Thoroughbred qualities
   - Conformation
   - Manners, paces and performance
   - Injuries caused through racing such as blemishes are allowed
8. Judge's decision is Final in Qualifiers and State Final.
9. Qualifier Prizes: Sash, $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified by Racing Victoria (Prize pack collected at State Final).

Alabar HERO Series

Hero
BEYOND THE TRACK

ALABAR EST. 1956

2023/24 Series Qualifier Regulations

1. **Open to all purebred freeze branded Standardbreds registered with Harness Racing Australia. Raced or unraced. Registrations will be verified.**
2. Registered/Racing name to be used where available. Freeze brand number must be provided.
3. Horse does not need to be registered with any other Association or Breed Society other than Harness Racing Australia to be eligible to compete.
4. Riders to be aged 12 years and over on the day of the Qualifying Show.
5. Colts/Stallions are not permitted to contest a series qualifier.
6. Qualifying Shows must be VAS Ltd affiliated.
7. Qualifying classes will be judged ridden.
8. Once a qualifier has won, the horse cannot compete at another Show qualifier in that calendar year.
9. All qualifying winners gain automatic entry into the Alabar HERO Series Final to be held at the VAS Ltd Saddle Horse Championships.
10. To be judged as a good example of a Standardbred rather than a riding horse/hunter type with the following being taken into consideration:
    - Standardbred qualities
    - Conformation
    - Manners, paces and performance
    - Racing related injuries and/or blemishes are permitted
11. The Judge's Decision is Final in the Qualifiers and State Final.
12. Qualifier Prizes: Sash, $50.00 Prizemoney sent out once qualification has been verified and HERO Gift Pack (Prize Pack collected at State Final).