

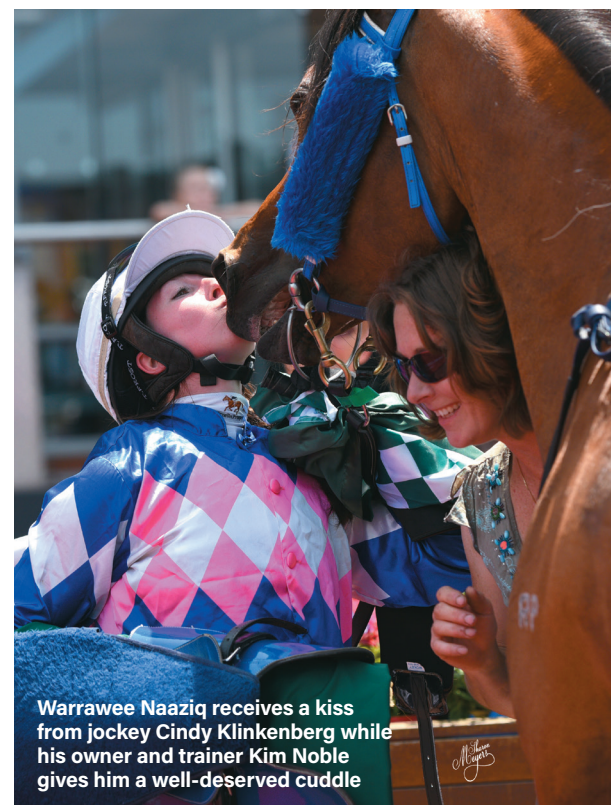
Arabian Racing in Australia

NARA's Role

Photography by Sharon Meyers



Warrawee Naaziq (bay), Turingal Vassili and Coolinda Park Winston fight to the finish at Morphettville, South Australia



Warrawee Naaziq receives a kiss from jockey Cindy Klinkenberg while his owner and trainer Kim Noble gives him a well-deserved cuddle

The sport of Arabian racing has been growing at a steady rate the world over. Around the globe, Arabians now appear at such famous tracks as Meydan in the UAE, Chantilly and Longchamp in France, Ascot and Newmarket in the UK, Churchill Downs and Santa Anita in the USA and the Curragh in Ireland. Closer to home Caulfield, Moonee Valley, Sandown and the Gold Coast have all played host to the original racehorse.

The prize money overseas has topped the million dollar mark and Arabians now open the program for such prestigious race meetings as the Dubai World Cup where the Kahayla Classic for purebred Arabians reminds one of the origins of the Thoroughbred, as does the Qatar Arabian World Cup which precedes the famous Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe meeting.

In Australia we have yet to reach such dizzying heights with our Arabians, although seeing them run at Moonee Valley before Black Caviar's 17th career win in front of a record crowd was just as exciting!

However, over the past three years, Arabian racing has shown strong development in Australia. NARA has raised the awareness and profile of racing, and as a result there have been many interested sectors of the racing community starting to become involved.

NARA is keen to see participants consider forming a syndicate to cover training costs which will in turn provide a ready made crowd of family and friends to swell race day attendance numbers. For anyone contemplating racing their horse there is a wealth of information available and plenty of experienced people ready to help.

NARA needs more horses in work to fill the race fields and there has never been a better time to become involved. There is nothing as thrilling as watching Arabians doing what they love best, galloping!

As the show scene doesn't appeal to everyone, and not everyone rides these days, the founders of NARA felt that, as in those great Arabian breeding nations of Russia and Poland, the racetrack would be a great testing ground of stamina and soundness for breeders. Besides, it's fun!

To many, the progress of Arabian racing in this country may appear frustratingly slow. However, NARA has been very particular about establishing a stringent set of rules, regulations and licensing and has adopted a philosophy of 'start as you mean to go on'. NARA is the

recognised Australian Arabian Racing Authority and a member country of the International Federation of Arabian Horse Racing Authorities (IFAHR).

There have been many setbacks over the years but recent partnerships are now bearing fruit with the result that the Arabian athlete is garnering a new found respect from the general horse community once more. The Thoroughbred racing fraternity have been increasingly willing to accept the original racehorse, progenitor of their own racehorses, and as a result many mutually beneficial partnerships are now coming to fruition.

In Queensland, NARA has progressed strongly over the past few years. From January to December 2013 NARA hosted races with \$64,000 prizemoney and in 2014 this was increased to 13 races with \$167,310 prizemoney. In total, from January 2012 until December 2014 there have been 28 races with \$419,730 prizemoney. This has been a strong growth over a three year period.

Unfortunately, due to the Queensland Government's dismissal of the Queensland Racing Board, Arabian racing has been on hold for over 12 months, but it is hoped that the coming season will see NARA races return once more.

This year has seen South Australia venture into Arabian racing with a most successful day of Thoroughbred and Arabian races at the beautiful Morphettville track sponsored by one of NARA'S greatest supporters, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and his Shadwell Stud Australasia. This was run by NARA in partnership with Dubai International Arabian Races

(DIAR) and the South Australian Jockey Club. The runners travelled from interstate to contest the UAE Arabian Plate and the UAE Arabian Stallions Plate with a total prizemoney of \$50,000. With seminars and lead up races being organised it is hoped that the fields will be full of South Australian Arabians before too long.

Australia has recently become a member country of the Heritage Arabian Racing Club (HARC) which has led to a partnership with His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. So far NARA has run three HARC races, seminars and training days under the HARC banner. HARC is an international club formed to encourage breeders to conserve the older racing bloodlines as distinct from the predominantly French lines that have taken over the racetracks in recent years.

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As Australia's Arabians are mostly of HARC bloodlines we already have a good pool of these horses. For more information on HARC please go to their Facebook site.

Being part of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival has been an extremely rewarding experience for NARA. Being invited to attend the Arabian Flat Racing Conferences



and the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards has been a wonderful way to gain knowledge and network with like minded people from around the world.

Australia has been honoured to send professional, amateur and apprentice jockeys overseas to compete in the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak race series over the last few years and we are proud that there have been several winners amongst them. Likewise for the HH Sheikhha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards with Australians being honoured with three Awards, Lifetime Achievement Award, Maureen Milburn, Photographer of the Year, Nadine Frampton and most recently Journalist of the Year, Victoria Shaw.

Racing Victoria Ltd (RVL) and NARA have successfully joined forces and now the internationally renowned HH Sheikhha Fatima Ladies World Championship race series has become a fixture at the famous Caulfield racecourse on Australia Day and continues to attract quality fields.

NARA foresees a very exciting season ahead with more seminars, hands on training days, barrier trials and race series in the pipeline. This, coupled with the very successful NARA Futurity and the annual HARC/NARA Festival should give would be participants something to aim towards. The future is indeed bright for the purebred Arabian racehorse in Australia. Come and join us and experience the thrill of Arabian racing!

For more information please visit
www.naraaustralia.com



Aloha Thee Desperado heading to the barriers at Morphettville Racecourse