

Proud to be *(and Aussie)*



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American

CHAMPIONS TOOK THE STAGE AT AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ALL AMERICAN SHOW

In July, the Gatton Quarter Horse & Performance Association—an Australian Quarter Horse Association affiliate club—prepared to host the first Australian show that was solely for American-registered Quarter Horses. Not wanting to miss a golden opportunity, Australian American Paint Horse Association (APHA) members successfully lobbied to add APHA classes to the inaugural All American Show.

On July 5, the first (Australian) All American Quarter Horse and Paint Horse Show took place at Lockyer Indoor Equestrian Centre in Gatton, Queensland. The show was held in conjunction with the Queensland State Quarter Horse Championships, Queensland Reining Horse Association Show and the Western Breeds Celebration Show—giving competitors the chance to win some of the \$25,000 in prize money and trophies that were offered. To help promote participation at the show, APHA provided two trophy buckles and a series of champion garlands.

Despite wintery weather, the event saw good numbers at all shows: 210 for the state show, 129 for the Western Breeds Celebration Show and 74 for the All American Show (including both Quarter Horses and Paints). R David Terrell from Tennessee was the judge for the All American Show and the Queensland Quarter Horse State Championship Show.

Excited about his first opportunity to judge in Australia, Terrell says the horses were of exceptional quality.

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“Needless to say, I was very excited about the opportunity to judge the Queensland State Quarter Horse Championship Show and the American Paint Horse Championship Halter Show in Gatton,” he said. “I felt the quality of horses and the professional presentation of the exhibitors would rate very high in any arena of major caliber in which I have judged.”

Facing: Champion honors at the All American Show went to HMF Perception, Sweet Justice and Magnificent Touchdown.

Below: KPM Switched On placed fourth in the Western Breeds Celebration Show's yearling halter futurity.



Vying for the title of Grand Champion American Paint Horse were three such high-quality horses—Champion Stallion Magnificent Touchdown, Champion Mare Sweet Justice and Champion Gelding HMF Perception. Sweet Justice was awarded the Grand Champion American Paint Horse buckle.

Magnificent Touchdown, a 2005 sorrel overo sired by Magnificent Heir and out of Oh Touch Me Touch Me AQHA, is a former APHA world and reserve world champion owned by Karen Lonski and Craig Dengate of Port Macquarie, New South Wales (NSW). Sweet Justice, a 2005 chestnut overo and multiple national grand champion, is owned by Jeffrey and Lee Ann Hall of Dubbo, NSW.

She was sired by Justice Morn and is out of Spec Of Silver. HMF Perception, a 2007 sorrel overo and another multiple national and state champion halter horse, was sired by Ratchetts Impressed, is out of Fannys Golden Finale AQHA and is owned by Jeffrey and Lee Ann Hall.

The judging of the Amateur Paint halter classes brought the same three horses back into the arena for championship judging, and Sweet Justice again earned the grand champion buckle.

“Just in my short visit, I can see the growth potential for the American Paint Horse in Australia,” said Terrell. “I was truly honoured to have this opportunity presented to me.”

Right: Ratchetts Delight placed first in 2-Year-Old Trail at the Celebration Show, second in 2-Year-Old Western Pleasure and won the All American Shows 2-Year-Old Gelding's class.

Below: Horses competing in the All American Show, including HMF Perception, had to be registered with APHA.



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Dual citizenship

The Paint Horse Association of Australia Ltd. (PHAA) is the governing body for Paint Horses in Australia, with approved judges, shows and an Honor Roll system similar to that of the American Paint Horse Association (APHA). Because PHAA maintains an independent studbook, Australia has never before had any APHA-approved shows. Although most Paint horses in Australia descend from mares and stallions imported from the USA, very few are APHA registered. The PHAA presently has more than 10,000 horses recorded in its studbook, approximately 1,200 members and holds an annual national championship show each Easter.

Approximately seven years ago, APHA and PHAA began to discuss an international registry to allow dual registration of Australian Paint Horses. Not wanting to reduce the numbers of Australian registrations, but rather enhance a horse's value by giving dual registration, the system was formed and refined. Australian-registered horses may now be registered with APHA's International Appendix Registry. Depending on the percentage of full American-registered horses in their pedigrees, they enter the registry at one of four levels and are able to "breed up" to full APHA registration over a period of time by breeding to horses that are in the APHA or AQHA studbooks.

More information on the Paint Horse Association of Australia Ltd. can be found at painthorse.com.au.



Above: Sweet Justice earned the title of Grand Champion American Paint Horse in the Open and Amateur divisions at the All American Show. Left: Our Incredible Story placed second in the Celebration's yearling halter futurity against a field of Quarter Horses and Paints.



Two days later, Gatton Quarter Horse & Performance Horse Association held a two-day Western Breeds Celebration Show, judged by Don Northey of Tamworth, NSW. Quite a few Paints went head-to-head with Quarter Horses in halter futurities and performance classes, and they placed very well in the mixed classes.

In the Yearling Halter Futurity, Our Incredible Story placed second and KPM Switched On earned fourth place. Our Incredible Story—who was sired by SB Intensity and is out of Im Incredibly Shameless—is a 2007 chestnut overo stallion owned by Helen Golchert and Breanna Sheppard of Mundubera, Queensland. KPM Switched On, a 2007 bay tobiano stallion sired by Ima Switch Hitter and out of Djapana, is owned by Kevin Mills of Wakely, NSW.

Plans for the 2010 All American Show are already underway, including efforts to add a full slate of halter and performance classes for American Paint Horses. **PHJ**