



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BEST OF SHOW A WAR WIND SUCCESS**

Shae Hanger and grey gelding *War Wind* put on a 'showstopping' performance at the 2010 Royal Melbourne Horse Show (RMHS), taking out the prestigious 'Best Of Show' title from an impressive field of 20 horses and ponies competing at the Australia Day weekend event conducted by The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

*War Wind*, a grey Warmblood gelding bred by Blackall Park Stud, also took home trophies for Champion Warmblood Gelding and Supreme Champion Show Hunter at the annual event, held at the National Equestrian Centre at Werribee Park. These recent wins add to a long line of impressive victories for the gelding, including the 2008 Garryowen Equestrienne Turnout title.

No stranger to the winner's circle herself, Shae Hanger was thrilled to receive another prestigious accolade from a Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) event.

"*War Wind* suffered a splint injury on his front leg during the 2008 Garryowen, and after 12 months of rest, I am delighted to have him back in work. To take out the Best of Show award after such a terrible injury is a real thrill," said Ms Hanger.

"I look forward to a successful show circuit this year, with the hope of a second Garryowen title at the Royal Melbourne Show in September."

Organisers for the RASV-hosted event were pleased with the overall success of the 2010 Show, and the positive response generated by its newly introduced categories, including individual handler classes and awards for 'Best Presented' in each breed.

"The Royal Melbourne Horse Show features an extensive program of events and exemplary judges, providing horse breeders with the opportunity to gain recognition from the best in the industry," said Mr Mark O'Sullivan, CEO RASV.

"The RASV is proud to host this prestigious four-day summer horse event, and is committed to working and evolving with the industry to ensure the high status of the RMHS is maintained.

"The RASV congratulates the 2010 Champion Best of Show Award winner, Shae Hanger, and hope to see her return with *War Wind* to the Royal Melbourne Show to take out a second Garryowen title in the near future," said Mr O'Sullivan.

More than 1,200 horses and ponies from more than 40 breeds were judged side by side throughout the four-day event - a practice unique to the RMHS, and one that provides a true spectacle for patrons.

Western breeds took centre stage once again in 2010, with Quarter Horse, *Kiss Me All Over*, awarded Supreme Quarter Horse by interstate judge, Joanne Gregory.



First introduced into competition by the RMHS, the rare Gypsy Cobs also put on a magnificent display, with *Watermark The Whistleblower*, shown by D and E Rheinberger, taking out the Champion Gypsy Cob and Supreme Champion Heavy Horse awards.

The new 'Best Presented' classes were dominated by the McNutt Family, who took home two first-place awards for their primped and preened ponies, *Thamesbourne Snowman* and *Thamesbourne Lollytime*, with Sarah Graham of Woodend taking out the new under-14 handler class with her horse *Mondiso Park Royal Secret*.

Concluding on the national holiday, the final day of the RMHS saw the Libby Webb Perpetual Trophy awarded to *Tipperary Sprigs Ruby*, ridden by Daylesford RDA. Presented to the best RDA horse or pony displayed at the event, the Trophy is awarded in honour of long-time RASV steward and RDA supporter, Libby Webb.

For further information and full competition results, please visit: [www.rasv.com.au](http://www.rasv.com.au)

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**For all media inquiries related to the 2010 Royal Melbourne Horse Show, please contact Wrights (PR for the RASV) on (03) 9690 9911**