Merrijig Ranch Reata Show  
23-24 February, 2019  
McCormack Park, Merrijig

Friday: 22\textsuperscript{nd} February 2019 – arena available for practice after 2pm

Saturday: 23\textsuperscript{rd} February 2019.  
Clinic: The clinic is designed to assist people new to showing ranch horses in how to show in each of the eligible classes. You will be taken through each class with demonstrations and answers to your questions. Events covered will be in order of the program.  
Show commences 2.00pm – subject to change based on number of cattle entries.

Sunday: 24\textsuperscript{th} February 2019 - 9am – show commences

ENTRIES

ENTRIES: To be lodged through Nominate. We will announce on Facebook when entries open.  
Youth entries are free excluding cattle hire

- Conformation, Improver and Novice Amateur Classes: $20.00 per horse  
- Ranch Riding, Trail & Reining Classes: $30.00 per horse  
- Ranch Roping, Reined Cow Horse and Cutting Classes: $40.00 per horse  
- Cattle Hire: $35.00 per horse/class all eligible classes

OFFICE FEE: Administration fee of $25 per horse applies.

ENTRY CLOSING DATE:

- Cattle event entries close 14 days prior the event – Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} February 2019  
- Dry work entries close midnight 15\textsuperscript{th} February 2019  
- NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED  
- All competitors must be current financial members of Australian Ranch Horse. Membership can be completed online at http://australianranchhorse.com.au/membership/  
- Current Membership number must be entered with your entries at the time of entering on Nominate

YARDS AND CAMPING – large grassed area

- Camping is free – No powered sites are available  
- Limited stock yards available for stallions only  
- BYO Portable Yards  
- Note there are no showers on site – portable showers are required or use Mansfield oval sporting facilities.

Rules and Regulations

HORSE AGE RESTRICTIONS: No horse under the age of 3 years old at the time of the show is eligible to compete.

AGE GROUPING:

- Horses six (6) years and over. Must be shown single handed in a bit unless otherwise stated. Reined Cow Horses must be shown in Romel Reins.  
- Horses five (5) years and under. May be shown in either a bit, hackamore or snaffle bit.

IMPROVER RULES: The Improver is deemed to be the rider. To be eligible as an improver, you cannot have won that particular event more than 3 times with more than one competitor in that event at any show. Western attire is not compulsory for improver riders, but equipment must be neat, safe and serviceable and the individual look clean and presentable. Bridle of the horse can be snaffle, hackamore or bridle in all classes. Two handed bridle is accepted.
NOVICE AMATEUR: The Novice Amateur is deemed to be the rider. If you have won more than 5 times with any breed or event organisation in the class, then you are NOT eligible as a Novice in that class. You remain eligible for the classes that you haven’t won more than 5 times in. Ranch style western Attire is compulsory. Bridle of the horse can be snaffle, hackamore or bridle in all classes. Two handed bridle is accepted.

A Novice Exhibitor may win any ARH Championship title and/or any ARH Year-End High-Point Title in any Novice Division event but will lose their eligibility to be a Novice Amateur.

An improver can show in both improver and novice amateur if they comply to the dress code of Novice Amateur.

ATTIRE RULES

It is mandatory to wear appropriate western attire (excluding improver classes), being long sleeve shirt, collar (band, stand-up, tuxedo, etc.) western hat, western pants/jeans and western boots. The hat must be on the rider’s head when the exhibitor enters the arena. Spurs, chinks and chaps are optional in ridden classes.

Attire for any person who has cause to enter the show arena to help set up trails etc. must be dressed in: western hat or cap, long western style pants, safe enclosed footwear and a shirt with long sleeves.

SADDLES: The Merrijig Ranch Reata Show is open to all breeds. Western saddles, half-breed and stock saddles, will be accepted. However, western attire is required to be worn by competitors. Bits/Bridles must be in accordance with age group requirements for Amateur and Open events.

DISTINGUISHING NUMBERS: Before the commencement of the Show, the Show Secretary will allocate a number to every entry. The numbers must be worn on either the handlers back in all conformation classes. Ridden events, numbers are to be placed on both sides of the saddle pads.

Failure to wear a competitor number, or to display the correct number in a visible manner will result in disqualification.

ANIMAL HEALTH: In the case of an outbreak or any contagious or infectious disease amongst horses, neither Australian Ranch Horse or McCormack Park will be liable for any damages or loss that may occur to any person or animal.

DOGS: MUST be tied or on leash and supervised at all times. The ranger will be called for dogs not complying with this rule and it will be the owner’s responsibility and expense to retrieve them from Council’s Animal Shelter.

TRAFFIC: Vehicles must be operated within a safe and reasonable speed limit on the grounds and it is necessary that parking and other traffic regulations be observed.

EXERCISE FACILITIES: On each day of the show, 1 hour prior to the commencement of the show and 1 hour after the cessation of the show, there will be no training equipment allowed in the immediate marshalling area and the performance arena, and the dress regulations of Cap/Hat, long western style pants, safe enclosed footwear and a shirt with sleeves must be worn.

NO SPECTATORS ARE TO RIDE HORSES for the duration of the show as the ARH insurance policy doesn’t cover or recognise any spectator riding whilst attending an ARH show. No horses to be ridden bareback or two astride.

GOOD CONDUCT: All competitors, spectators and support staff are required to act in good conduct at all times. Drinking to excess and abuse of another person will not be tolerated.

BANNED PERSONS: ARH has the right to refuse entries from any individual or entry to the event without giving cause.
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DRUGS/SURGICAL PROCEDURES: No person shall cause to be administered or used internally or externally to a horse either before or during the Merrijig Ranch Reata Show any medication, drug, device or surgical procedure which is of such a character as could mask a defect. Upon discovery of the administration of such a drug, medication, device or surgical procedure, then the Show Management shall immediately disqualify that horse. All horses are subject to drug testing and all owners agree that by making their entry, they will allow their horses to be drug tested. Please refer Animal Welfare Rules within this document.

OTHER RULES: Any necessary rules and regulations not covered by the current Australian Ranch Horse Rule Book will be determined by the Show Management and their decision will be final and without recourse of any kind. Show Management reserves the right to add any further applicable rules and regulations before, or during the show. These will be posted on the notice board and will be put over the public address. Such instances could be Out of bounds working areas, closure of areas to the public or horses, or any other matter that may arise.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE: All competitors must be a financial members of the Australian Ranch Horse in their own right to show at the Merrijig Ranch Reata Show. Proof of current membership is required with entries.

DISPUTES COMMITTEE: The Disputes Committee, shall consist of the Show Manager, One Show Team Organiser Member and One Competitor nominated by the contestants. In the event of more than one competitor is nominated for the position on the Disputes Committee, the Show Manager will conduct a draw for the position.

RISK: Competitors and Horses compete at their own risk; the Show Committee will not be responsible for any injury, loss or damage.

PROTESTS: Protest must be made in writing to the Show Secretary and be lodged within 30 minutes of the disputed events finishing. A fee of $50.00 must accompany each protest lodged.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Please note we may have a nominated photographer taking photos and/or videos that may be released on the ARH website, Facebook page and/or promotional material. These photos and/or videos are not for personal use. Entering our competition, you automatically grant us permission to use photos and/or video of you and your horse. Should you not wish for this to occur, please advise in writing via our website contact us form.

RIBBONS: Ribbons to 6th place.

ANIMAL WELFARE:

A Zero Tolerance Welfare Policy Stands for Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner and is strictly prohibited. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse. Any act of inhumane treatment, abuse or intent to abuse a horse will be dealt with immediate expulsion from the event and in eligibility to compete at any future events.

This Zero Tolerance Policy covers acts occurring not only in the show arena, but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds—the warm-up area, practice pen or any other location, before-during-after the show. The “Zero Tolerance” policy encompasses all of the following acts:

1. Horse Abuse: Horse Abuse includes: excessive jerking; spurring; cueing; whipping; use of lip wire or similar device; slapping or hitting a horse on the head, or any other part of the body, one time or more than one time, in any manner, either with the rider’s hands, reins or any other object; using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face; using any object held in the rider’s hand to hit a horse; or any other act which may cause trauma or injury to a horse.
2. **No Blood Rule:** Any blood on the horse caused from spurring, whipping or bits before, during or after a class. Horses will be subjected to white towel testing where concerns arise.

3. **Inhumane treatment:** Inhumane Treatment is the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse’s undue discomfort or distress. The decision of show management or judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management or a judge determines, in the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, show management or a judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance rule.

4. **Administration of injectable or oral medications** or possession of any drug paraphernalia while in the show arena, practice arenas, alleys leading into the arenas or any other public areas of the show grounds is strictly prohibited unless administered in a life-saving situation which should only be done based on consultation with a veterinarian. Any member observing activity that violates this rule should immediately report such conduct to the Show Management.

   If Show Management observes or receives such a complaint, it has the right to immediate expel the responsible person/s, their handlers and support personnel.

**Cattle Policy**

1. No sick or injured animals will be permitted to be used in competition. Blinded animals or animals with bad eyes will not be permitted to be used in competition. Cattle will be inspected for their health and well-being before being used in competition.

2. Arena help may be fired and/or contestant maybe disqualified for mistreating cattle

3. Cattle that become excessively excited, so that they appear in danger of injuring themselves, should be released from the arena.

4. Exhibitors over-running cattle down the fence will be scored 0.

5. If an exhibitor kicks the animal being worked, or hits it with the romal or reins in an abusive manner; he or she will be disqualified.