



Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival

14 - 15 March, 2026

ddheavyhorseentries@gmail.com

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383 Hendon - Mt Marshall Rd. Allora Qld 4362

January, 2026

Dear Competitors

** Please take a few minutes to read this letter through to the end before completing your entry form.*

Welcome to the fifth Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival to be held at the Allora Showgrounds on the weekend of 14th & 15th March, 2026.

We have made some modifications to the program so please read carefully the rules and definitions in both the Schedule and Rules before submitting your entries.

We have also introduced two Equestrians With Disability (EWD) classes. If you are an EWD competitor, please read the relevant section in our Rules before submitting your entries.

Entries will close on Sunday, 15 February, 2026

All entries must be submitted to the secretary on or before Sunday, 15 February. We realise this is a tight turn-around but as most entries are sent in the last 10 days, we are confident you will have enough time.

About 80% of our entries come in during the last 10 days or so. It would be lovely if we could flip that and have the bulk of the entries submitted early.

Payment **must** accompany the entries for them to be accepted - please forward a copy of your Lodgement Receipt or Payment Advice. ***Please scan documents, preferably as a PDF, for emailing. A photo of a form may not be accepted and is often difficult to read.***

Early Bird Entries Draw

All entries (including payment) received by **Monday, 26 January** (Australia Day) will go in the draw for a \$100 prize. You **must** compete at the event to be eligible to claim it.

Prize Money & Appearance Money

Prize money for all classes remains at 1st: \$40 2nd: \$30 3rd: \$20

Prize money is also awarded to the Supreme Exhibits, Grand Champions and some Championships. Appearance money is available for some competitors - full details are in the Competitors Rules & Conditions of Entry.

Feature Event

Our feature event for 2026 will be the **Mouldboard Ploughing – Single Horse**. Last year it was the Ridden Concours d'Elegance.

Timetable

We have included a timetable as a guide only. Once entries are in we will refine it more.

Insurance for Juniors

Last year we made changes to the insurance fee for our junior competitors.

- Junior competitors who **only enter either or both** the Junior Led Exhibit (JU01) or the Junior Led Obstacle Course (LO02) will have their insurance fee waived. This also applies to Juniors who only enter either or both EWD classes.
- **All other Juniors**, under 18 years of age, entering any other classes whether specifically for Juniors or open competition, will be charged a **reduced insurance fee of \$10** (half the adult fee)
- If a Junior is a fully financial EA member then no insurance payment is required.
- Insurance must be paid for those adults supporting junior or EWD competitors (unless they are EA members).
- ***Please note that ALL Juniors must have the required paperwork completed.***

* Australian Cart Classic Series Event

We have offered a class for those competitors taking part in the Australian Cart Classic Series which is conducted over a 12 month period throughout the eastern states. A document explaining the series is attached.

Attached to this email is all the documentation & information competitors need. Included are

- 2 Competition Schedule
- 3 Competitors Rules & Conditions of Entry
- 4 Payment Form
- 5 Entry Form – Led Classes
- 6 Entry Form – All Other Classes
- 7 Timetable
- 8 EA Waiver & Indemnity Agreement
- 9 Event Membership & Insurance Form
- **10 Horse Health Declaration (to be handed in on arrival at the Festival)**
- 11 Sponsorship Pledge Form
- 12 Aust Classic Cart Series Rules

We will have more information out to competitors closer to the event but please feel free to contact us by email or through private message to our Facebook page “Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival”.

***Please note our email address for all nominations – ddheavyhorseentries@gmail.com**

Insurance Paperwork

Please ensure you have your paperwork correctly filled out.

- ALL competitors **MUST** complete the EA Waiver & Indemnity Agreement (Doc 7)
If you are a current financial member of EA please put your membership no at the bottom of page 2. You will not need to pay the \$20 fee (\$10 for Juniors). You will **not** need to complete Doc 8 – the Event Membership & Insurance Form
- ALL competitors, including Juniors, who are **NOT** a current financial member of EA **MUST** also complete Doc 8 – the Event Membership & Insurance Form.
- Anyone (competitor, groom, helper) wishing to enter the main arena, the undercover arena or the plough ring **MUST** have completed the required forms and paid the applicable fee to receive a wristband. Without this wristband you will be denied entry.

Camping & Yard Facilities

Allora Showgrounds is situated on the New England Highway about 20km north of Warwick. It's a lovely venue offering powered (limited number) & non-powered camping sites. We have portable panel yards available plus a limited number of smaller, covered stalls more suited to ponies and smaller horses.

**Please note that the covered stalls are not suitable for heavy horses*

Food & Drinks

Food vendors will be on site for the weekend – including Friday night (details of which vendors closer to the event) Our **Saturday night roast dinner**, catered for by Allora Butchery, is once again planned and the licensed bar will be open both Friday & Saturday evenings – you can pre-order your dinner with your nominations. Be aware that it can sell out before entries close.

Sponsorship

A sponsorship pledge form is also attached if you would like to support the Festival in this way. We would be extremely grateful should you choose to do so and please feel free to contact us regarding more information on sponsorship packages. To those of you who have already supported us... we are truly thankful.

Dogs

If you have to bring your dog/s with you, it/they **must be confined or on a leash at all times** and remain at your campsite during Show opening hours. Please clean up after them.

Further Information

A detailed email will be sent to all competitors in the week before the Festival with plenty of information re the event. However, please feel free to contact me prior to then if there is anything you would like to know.

We trust that you are all safe and well and look forward to seeing you all at the Darling Downs Heavy Horse Festival in March.

Kind regards

Clare Gorwyn