

HRNZ BOARD APPOINTED AT AGM

OCTOBER 2024

An accountant with extensive sporting experience, Grant Jarrold has been appointed as the Chair of the new Harness Racing New Zealand Board.

Among his leadership roles, Jarrold is best known for his work as the current Chair of the Crusaders Board. The seven directors were finalised following an extensive recruitment and selection process, with three being appointed by a nomination panel and the remaining four being elected by clubs and kindred bodies at the HRNZ AGM in Christchurch over the weekend.

The former Board stood down following the 2024 AGM. The new Board members, who have been charged with taking HRNZ forward, are:



Grant Jarrold (Chair)

Grant Jarrold is a chartered accountant with extensive sporting and business experience, including his current role as Chair of the Crusaders Board. He is involved in syndicated horse racing and is a member of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club.



Hannah Doney (Vice Chair)

Based in Christchurch, Hannah Doney has extensive governance experience with a background in marketing and business development. She is a founding trustee of the Standardbred Stable to Stirrup Charitable Trust.



Shaun Brooks (Finance Chair)

Based in Auckland, Shaun Brooks will serve a second term as a director of HRNZ. He has extensive experience in financial management and governance. His career spans sectors including sport, consumer brands and gaming / wagering. Shaun was previously the CFO of the New Zealand Racing Board and has been on the Auckland Trotting Club Board.



Jane Davis

Based in Rangiora, Jane Davis has extensive local authority experience, and has been a board member of the NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club. She is involved in horse racing syndication and has a strong background in planning, infrastructure, and industry engagement.



Georgina Hunter

Based in Christchurch, Georgina Hunter comes from a marketing and communications background. She has held leadership roles and governance positions in various organisations and her key strengths include stakeholder engagement, managing change and strategic planning.



Stephen O'Connor

A financial advisor based in Invercargill, Stephen O'Connor holds a number of leadership roles. He has a long-standing involvement in harness racing through family ties, and is a member of Wyndham and NZ Metropolitan Trotting Clubs.



Tim Sissons

Based in Christchurch, Tim Sissons is a partner at a legal firm and has been the Deputy Chair of the NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club. He is also a horse owner and amateur driver.



Following the changes to the HRNZ Board, outgoing Chair Phil Holden has also resigned from the Board of Racing New Zealand (RNZ).

HRNZ Chief Executive Brad Steele says the AGM has ushered in a new era.

“Personally I’d like to thank Phil and the rest of the Board for the work they have done since I’ve been in this job,” says Steele, “I have leaned on them a lot and they have been very supportive.”

“At the same time the new Board members with Grant as Chair will now carve their own path and I am looking forward to working with them over the coming months and years.”