

Media Release

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Governor-General Fills RM's Boots as Society Patron

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia has accepted an invitation to become Patron of Australia's largest equine breed society.

The news was confirmed today by head of the Australian Stock Horse Society, Mr Steve Guihot, from their headquarters in Scone, NSW.

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (Retd) succeeds the late RM Williams as the new Patron of the Society.

Mr Guihot commented, "I think by anyone's measure, RM was always going to be a hard act to follow, which is why we didn't rush to replace him. However, today we are truly delighted with this news from Yarralumla. In accepting the role of Patron, the Governor-General sends a message of support for the Society's aim to preserve and promote the bloodlines of this living national icon."

The Australian Stock Horse has long been recognised at home for its versatility and superior performance amongst work and leisure breeds. Its reputation internationally is growing rapidly as a result of a pro-active export campaign, supported by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

The Australian Stock Horse, which featured in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, has a rich history. The Australian Stock Horse (ASH) developed from bloodstock transported to the colony on the first fleet in 1788. Subsequent selective breeding created one horse which displays versatility and superb temperament and is suited to work, rest and play.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. Established in 1971, the Australian Stock Horse Society is based in Scone, New South Wales.
2. With more than 9500 Members and over registered 150,000 horses, the Society is Australia's largest organisation of recreation/work horses.
3. Its mission is to maintain the heritage and to promote the bloodlines and high-performance of the Australian Stock Horse among equestrian activities and the public.
4. For more see www.ashs.com.au