



2017

RACEHORSE DEATHWATCH

A report by the Coalition for
the Protection of Racehorses



**DEADLIEST
YEAR YET**

INTRODUCTION

Deathwatch Report 2017 is the fourth annual report that summarises all on-track deaths of racehorses around Australia over the past 12 months. Research and production is by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

This report was initiated because the racing industry does not collate and publish specific information relating to on course horse deaths themselves. From the period 1st of August 2016 to 31st of July 2017 (the racing year), we have monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.

This year the death toll is 137 horses - 4 more than last year.

In addition to the 137 horses killed on racetracks in the last 12 months, many thousands of horses die every year from racing related injuries off the track in training or they are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable.

The 137 horses that died on track during this period represent 0.38% of the approx 36,000 horses racing each year. Many thousands more disappear or cycle out of the racing industry, also known as *wastage*.

SOURCES OF DATA

Data for the Deathwatch Report has been gathered from each state's official stewards reports, which are published on the individual state websites, as well as the Australian Racing Fact Book and various media outlets.

However, it is important to note that most states do not report deaths while training or in trials.

From this, it can be drawn that if these deaths were disclosed, the total number of deaths would be far higher.



KEY FINDINGS

Catastrophic front limb injury

was the most common cause of death with **75 horses** dying from a range of injuries relating to their front limbs

On average one horse will die every

2.6 days

5 horses collapsed and died

11 horses died from cardiac issues

6 horses died from massive bleeds **NSW had the most deaths (59) followed by Victoria (26)**

4 horses died in jumps races

63 horses had raced at 2 years old

5 was the most dangerous age

Morphettville was the most lethal track



CAUSES OF DEATH

Of the 137 horses that died on track, by far the most common cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with 75 occurrences.

Catastrophic hind limb injury was the second leading cause of death with 20 instances. Other causes of death were bleeds and cardiac failure.

COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

Year	Deaths	Ratio
2014	125	1 death every 2.9 days
2015	116	1 death every 3 days
2016	132	1 death every 2.8 days
2017	137	1 death every 2.6 days



CASE STUDIES

Almoonqith *Sydney Cup tragedy*

Almoonqith was a 7-year-old gelding, who started racing as a 2-year-old gelding in America.

After being brought to Australia, he was very successful, making almost \$1million in prize money for his connections.

However, on 8 April 2017, Almoonqith broke his off-hind cannon bone while running in the prestigious Sydney Cup, and was killed right there on the track.

Harmonic Lass *Raced as a baby*

Harmonic Lass was a 2-year-old filly running in the Wellington Boot. It was just her third time on a racetrack.

During the race, she fractured her near fore fetlock and was killed. Unlike more prestigious racehorses, her death was not spoken about as she had only made around \$4,000.

Her story highlights a huge welfare concern in the

Australian racing industry - racing horses at just 2 years old.

Putting young, underdeveloped racehorses on the racetrack is absolutely culpable. And if they do not suffer catastrophic injuries at a young age, it still pre-disposes them to cumulative injury further on down the track.

Finke

Bleeding to death

Finke was a 5-year-old gelding who had been racing since 2 years old. After a relatively successful racing career, making over \$300,000 in prize money, his life abruptly ended at Morphettville on 25 Feb 2017.

Finke pulled up from his race distressed, and collapsed in the mounting yard. A necropsy found that he had ruptured his aorta - suffering a massive internal bleed.

Wheeler Fortune

Jumps racing cruelty

The annual Oakbank Carnival is renowned for its cruel jumps races - which regularly result in the deaths of horses. This year was no exception - with Wheeler Fortune falling over the final hurdle right in front of a crowd of racegoers, including young children.

A photo of him standing with a

dangling front leg injury (which was reported to be a break to his near fore cannon bone) shaped the image of the rest of the Easter Carnival, and once again renewed calls for the 'sport', which is 20 times more dangerous than flat racing, to be banned.

Wheeler Fortune had race as a 2-year-old, and was brought to Australia from New Zealand.

I'm Captain Oats

Never made a race

If I'm Captain Oats had have died in any state but New South Wales, we would have never known about his death.

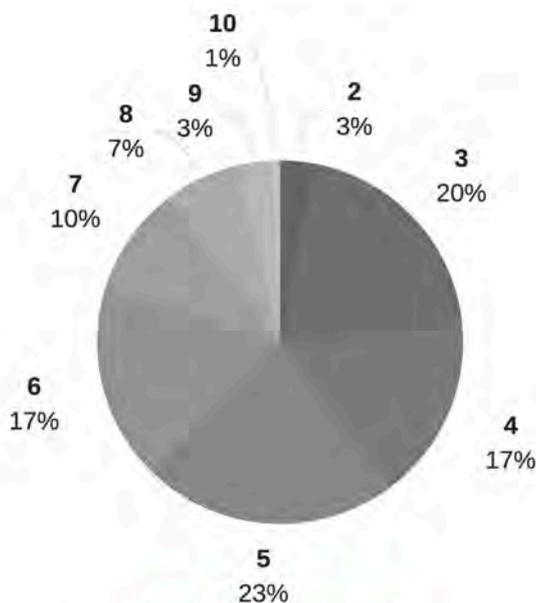
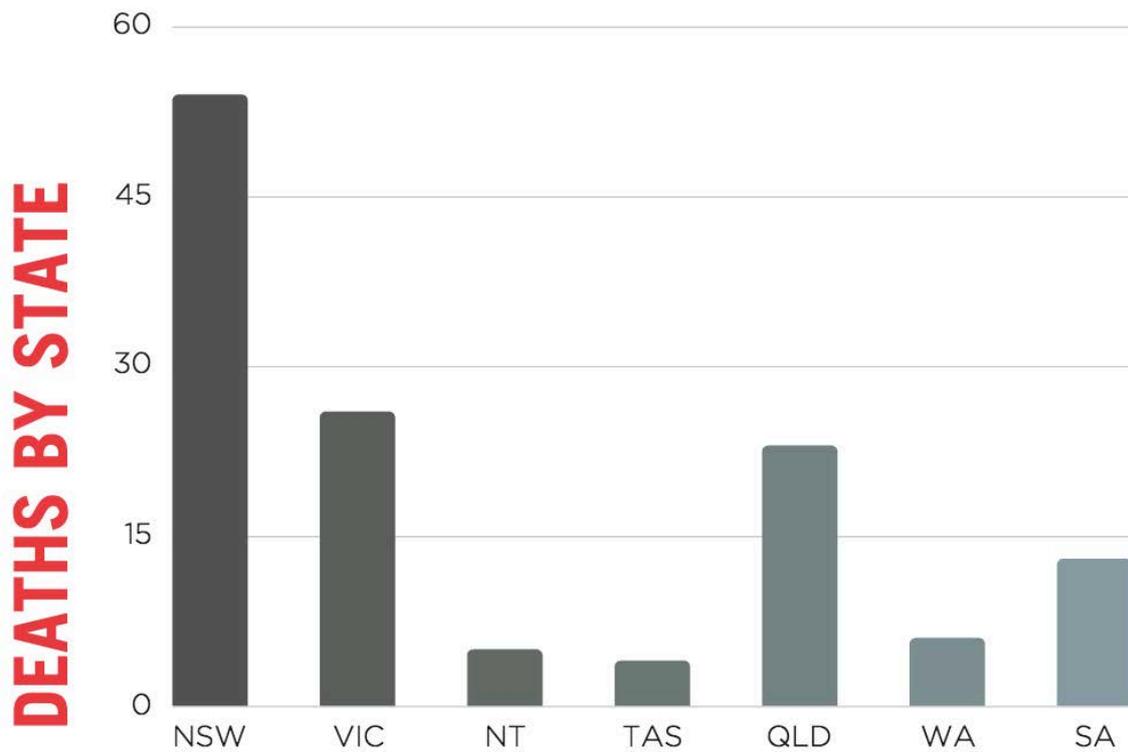
The 2-year-old colt

died while in trackwork on Hawkesbury racetrack, suffering a comminuted fracture to his off fore metacarpus (a catastrophic front limb injury).

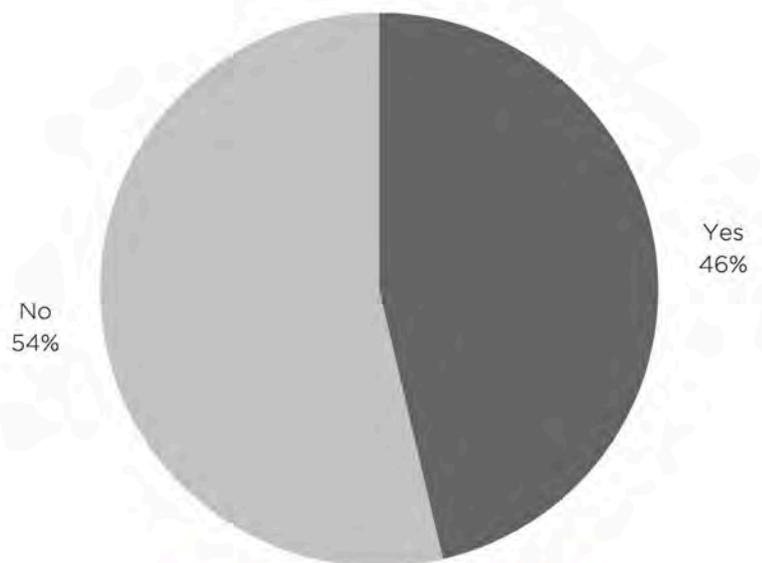
New South Wales is the only state in the country that reports deaths in training and trackwork in their stewards reports. If I'm Captain Oats had have been training anywhere else, his fate would not be public knowledge. Presumably, this is the case for many other racehorses dying outside of official races in every other state.



STATISTICAL INFORMATION



DEATHS BY AGE



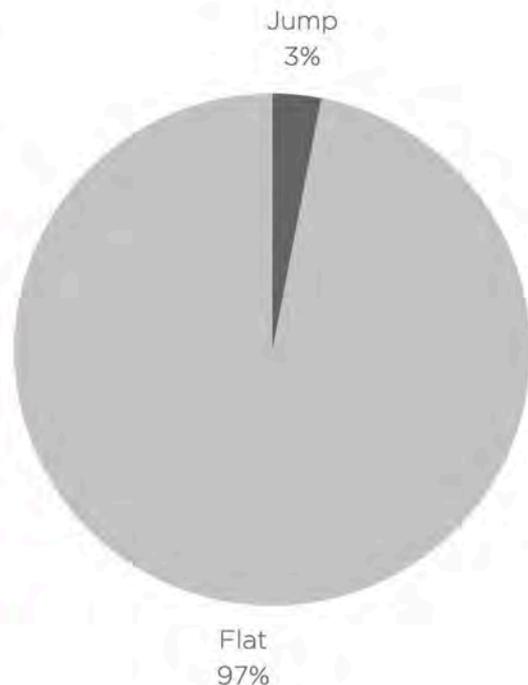
RACED AT 2YO

DEATHS BY CAUSE

CAUSE	NUMBER
Catastrophic front limb injury	75 horses
Catastrophic hind limb injury	21 horses
Bleed	6 horses
Cardiac	12 horses
Collapsed and died	5 horses
Other	18 horses



DEATHS BY DISCIPLINE



Coolcat Dancer
Mine Craft
Desert Land
Cent To Be Good
Cee Tee
Fizza Ma Wizza
Worth The Wait
unknown
Zuprising
Pencita
Clarify Claude
Kiss and Wish
Chilly Reception
Warlight
Secret Stealth
Redoutable Heart
Sebrarian
Weatherly
Wee Frankie
Baby Boy
Above Suspicion
Dashing Bella
Eternal Key
Dunamite
Montana Man
Spanish Love
The Gold Trail
Lepaute
Cosmic Pearl
Mr Andre
Red Fire Lady
Caprivi Strip
Finke
Artful Jack
Brown Bob
Surface To Air
Couldnotbebetter
Kestrel
Lord Burghersh
Drop On In
Vital Force
Wheeler Fortune
Cool
Jayzown
Black Cat Moan

Dragon's Magic
Wine & Chocolates
Be the Magic
Rambling Raider
Arwoc
Perfect Weapon
Miss Golden Globe
Just Junior
Swingitlikesayers
Ronn's Moss
Cylinder Beach
She's a Ruby
Red Magic
Ready Above
Unnamed filly
Hungerford Star
Swiggin'
Accepting
Vite Loni
Dancing Derina

IN MEMORIAM

Harare
In Taipei
Croissants
Legally Cool
Flying Toucan
Fastnet Thunder
House of Lords
Sound Strings
Vitervo Star
Crown Him
Almoonqith
Orbec
Pelerin
Linsang
Bella Lucinda
Hikikomori
Hoshi
Foreign Fighter
Simply Ming
Recompence
Puissance Decheval
Heaps Good

Noble Harris
Cape Londonderry
The Conspirator
Lord Lonhroe
Western Dream
Mrs Ed Misses Ed
Rattlesnake Bat
Stylish Lad
I'm Captain Oats
Kirkimack
Redsera
Hard Liquor
Unnamed filly
The Golden Pig
Spiritina
Weekend Shadow
Real Time
Zafiro
Adventure King
Peace Talks
Hazy Blur
Hoagy
My Girl Ella
Taiyoo
Quaternion Eagle
Jansz
Gee Gees Free Hero
Magic Greg
Nature Bites
Sidereus Attacks
Knight Esprit
True Commitment
Montague Clan
Bring Back
Scasrak
Elusive Star
War 'N' Peace
No When To Hold Em
Masked Model
Harmonic Lass
First Defence
Conteur
Fast Cut
Lubricate
Da Vine Warrior

This report was written by the Coalition
for the Protection of Racehorses.

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