

My name is Jackie Graham, I live in Goondiwindi Queensland with my husband Todd and 2 children Addison and Aiden. I have been a member and an active competitor with the NCHA for 25 years beginning my introduction to the sport as a Junior Youth competitor. In this time I have experienced many different aspects of the National Cutting Horse Association from my earlier days as a youth competitor, to working as a loper for trainers both here in Australia and abroad in the USA, a dedicated and passionate Non pro competitor in which I have travelled many miles competing at weekend cuttings for National High Point Awards and also as an Aged Event competitor, I'm a committed breeder of quality cutting horses and alongside my husband Todd Graham we run a successful cutting horse training business.

After 25 years of membership I'm still as passionate about our great equine sport as ever and I do believe we are a part of something truly unique, however I do feel we aren't selling our sport to its full potential, we need fresh ideas going forward to reach the wider equine community and more incentives to actually gain new enthusiastic members that will undoubtedly become hooked like the rest of us, although I feel very strongly that we aren't doing enough to generate new memberships, I am also just as mindful of the need to look after our existing membership who are the bones of our association and to maintain the cutting way of life which is one that should offer a professional, unique but most of all a FUN experience, which is what got us Hooked to this sport from the start!

A little communication can go a long way and I do strongly believe that this is the key to gain more momentum moving forward within our association, we live in a world where there are so many channels available in order to relay information, promote our sport, celebrate our winners and communicate with people so we need to make sure we are using this to our advantage so that our sport can be easily accessible to people of all walks of life and that they are getting access to the right information to start their cutting journey.

Cutting is a great sport and I think its time we focus on some of the positives of our industry in order to make cutting thrive and focus on where we are headed and not where we have been!!