

2000 WAHO Conference, Gold Coast, Australia

November 6 thru 9, 2000

Submitted by Lorry Wagner
November 18, 2000

This year's WAHO Conference held at the Surfer's Paradise Marriott Hotel at the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, was another fabulous experience. The warmth and friendliness of the members of the Australian Arabian Horse Society that hosted this event were so very welcoming.

Accommodations were terrific. I was on the 28th floor looking out to the east over the Pacific Ocean. What a view. The morning before I left, I was sitting in my hotel room looking out at partly cloudy skies embracing an absolutely gorgeous sunrise, watching beautifully clear, blue/green water break on a pristine sand beach in brilliant white foam.



What a beautiful place to spend 10

days. And...as soon as the clouds broke that morning, I walked down to the Duty Free shopping area and had a wonderful time shopping. Ohhhh, those opals and silks.

Well, now I will get to the important aspects of this Conference. The general business of the conference was conducted as usual, but I will concentrate specifically and in more details on the two areas that impact the International Arabian Horse Association (IAHA) and all Arabian horse owners and breeders.

Lorry's View of Gold Coast Beaches from 28th Floor



Lorry with delightful Koala

Tom Connelly/Bob Fauls, IAHA Delegates to WAHO 2000

Since this issue was addressed in the very first session of this Conference and directly impacts IAHA, I will attempt to clarify what happened before and after these two gentlemen left the conference.

To bring clarification and detail to what actually happened, Tom was told by many people that Mr. Fauls would never be accepted as an IAHA delegate long before Tom made his appointment official. When IAHA did file the paperwork indicating that Bob Fauls was the final designated second delegate, Jay Stream, as President of WAHO, sent Tom a letter indicating that Bob Fauls would not be seated and why. That was the end of May or early June. At the August, IAHA Board of Directors meeting when Tom was questioned about this appointment, he (Tom) assured all present that Bob Fauls was the perfect choice since they intended to open dialog on the AHRA/WAHO problem. Both Tom and Bob Fauls chose to ignore all communications warning them that Bob Fauls would not be accepted as the IAHA delegate by WAHO and IAHA should not get involved in the AHRA/WAHO problem. However, Mr. Fauls arrived Saturday morning, November 4, expecting to be seated as the IAHA delegate.

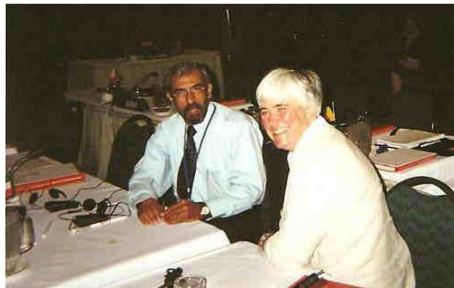
In his report published on the IAHA web site, Tom Connelly stated that confirmation had been received from WAHO that both he and Bob Fauls were accepted as IAHA delegates. I think there is a misunderstanding here, since WAHO does not send out any official confirmation and acceptance of delegates upon receiving the initial communication from each Registering Authority member listing their appointed delegates for that Conference. It is my understanding that the only "official" communication from WAHO upon receiving notification that Bob Fauls had been appointed by Tom was the above-mentioned letter directly to Tom from Jay Stream.

This is the first time in its 30-year history that WAHO has rejected a delegate, but WAHO rules state that in this event the rejected delegate has the right to be heard by the WAHO EC, hence the reason for waiting until the EC was in official session in Australia for an official ruling as to whether or not to seat Bob Fauls, an AHRA Board Official as an IAHA delegate. When there is such known controversy over such a situation, it would have been prudent for IAHA to conduct in-depth communication beforehand, after having been notified that Bob Fauls would not be accepted as an IAHA delegate.

Sunday morning had the first official meetings scheduled; i.e., the Registrars' meeting and the Executive Committee meeting. Tom Connelly was called out of the Registrars' meeting into the EC meeting and was told officially he (Tom) was welcome as an IAHA delegate, but that Mr. Fauls would be welcome only as an observer and would not be seated as a delegate with a vote. I saw two EC members come out of the EC meeting room to sit with Bob Fauls (who was in the waiting area outside the meeting areas where many of us gathered for a day of re-acquaintance and private discussions) for quite a length of time and was later told they were explaining the problem and the option to him. In addition, Katrina Murray, the WAHO Executive Secretary, also came out and covered the same subject. Tom was advised to choose another delegate from one of the many IAHA members present at the conference if he wished to seat a second delegate. Instead, Tom chose to leave along with Bob Fauls on Monday morning before the conference opened its first general session.



Jackie Tone Polk and daughter Terry Polk of Los Acres Arabians in California, USA



Dierdra Hyde, stud manager for Al Wrsan Farm, United Arab Emirates, and Abdullah Nayef Albraihi, Registrar for Kuwait Arabian Horse Centre, Kuwait

Tom's report to the world via that IAHA web site indicated that Jay Stream did most of the talking and would not let the rest of the EC participate in most of the discussion, and Tom took umbrage with this. I thought I should clarify this misunderstanding on Tom's part since, with all due respect, Tom has never been to a WAHO function before. The EC is made up of members from countries around the world. First, one must understand that the WAHO delegates at the Conferences represent their individual countries. However, the WAHO EC members who are from several different countries must leave their individual country aspects behind and when in that seat must represent "all" countries as the umbrella organization. Continuing to explain the WAHO EC level, every country is different and has its own set of internal situations which are usually not of interest or understood by the next country. Therefore, when matters come up that relate to a particular country or area of the world, the EC member from that area will usually head the discussion as being the most knowledgeable

and sometimes the only person with the background and understanding by which to conduct said discussion. Understanding that this situation had been well discussed by the EC "before" Tom was asked to come into the meeting, Jay Stream would have been the only member sitting on the current EC that is truly familiar with IAHA and the US politics, etc. Thus, Jay would have been the WAHO EC member to conduct the majority of the discussion. That is normal operating procedure for this EC.

Now, the reasons stated for not seating Bob Fauls are as follows:

1. Bob Fauls sits on the Arabian Horse Registry of America (AHRA) board as a Director and the AHRA is no longer a member of WAHO.
2. As a Director for AHRA, Bob Fauls has accompanied AHRA President Bart Brown and AHRA Executive Secretary Ralph Clark on many trips around the world (since AHRA's membership was terminated from WAHO as of 12/31/97) trying to undermine and destroy WAHO by asking WAHO-member registries to break WAHO rules and sign "side agreements" with AHRA to directly import/export purebred Arabian horses between them, circumventing WAHO. This would, of course, set up any registry that would do that for being expelled from WAHO membership. When you add this to the fact that Mr. Fauls was present at the last conference in Bahrain as an observer and apparently was trying to carry on this same AHRA agenda there which resulted in many of the delegates and other observers becoming very upset with him plus the additional fact that Mr. Fauls set up meetings with WAHO President Jay Stream several times during the early years of this situation and after promises were made it came to light that Mr. Fauls did not have the authority to speak for AHRA (thus those meetings were a basic waste of time and money) the decision reached by the EC is understandable.

Although AHRA has not been successful in these efforts (with the exception of Brazil (who has been warned of the

inevitability of termination of membership unless they abide by WAHO rules) and Jordan (who, as far as WAHO knows has not yet broken any WAHO rules), the WAHO executive committee determined that it was not in the best interest of this Conference to seat Bob Fauls as a voting delegate. In addition, this may have been an EC decision, but the delegates and observers at the conference were in agreement.

It seems that during the course of that meeting with the WAHO EC, Tom tried to justify Mr. Fauls' appointment by referencing their (his and Bob's) agenda to open dialog on the AHRA problem, in addition to stating that AHRA and IAHA are working closely together. Both these justifications were basically out of line with the purpose of a WAHO Conference. First, AHRA was not on the agenda (and will not be until they reapply for membership), IAHA does not (and certainly should not) speak for AHRA and should only have attended for IAHA purposes, Bob Fauls is not the only person in the US working on resolution of the AHRA/WAHO problem (one of Tom's justifications for appointing him) and Bob Fauls had already tried this tactic at Bahrain as described above.

The second justification was apparently brought forth in a manner that was totally misunderstood by several EC delegates and nearly got IAHA terminated from membership in WAHO. When we are speaking on an International level to people from other countries, some of whom understand English very well to those that need interpreters, we must be very careful to be very clear and realize most of these people have very little, if any, knowledge of anything going on within the US borders.

When this matter of IAHA delegates was brought up to the general session and we were all sitting there looking at the "empty table" that had been reserved for IAHA, after the explanation of why IAHA was not there a motion was made by Isabella Zawadzka, EC member from Poland, to terminate IAHA's membership. This was based upon two areas where IAHA is, in essence, breaking WAHO rules (which I will address later in depth because the future of the US Arabian is highly impacted as a result) AND the fact that Isabella Zawadzka again stood and informed the delegation that *Tom had told the EC that IAHA was merging with AHRA, thus that was an additional and final reason for terminating IAHA from WAHO**. This was, of course, not what Tom meant, but it was how he was interpreted and, he was not there to clarify himself. (I did, by the way, have the opportunity to personally explain to Isabella



IAHA's Empty Delegate Table

and other EC members that IAHA was not merging with AHRA.) This misunderstanding by EC members clinched the motion for termination in the first place. When the motion was made and seconded, I did stand up to a microphone and ask the delegation to take no action on this motion, that IAHA had a convention coming up within 3 weeks and leadership might change significantly. I asked that WAHO give IAHA time to address the problems that exist with WAHO, since they had just been brought up at this Conference. Thankfully, my request was granted by these delegates. Many came up to me during coffee breaks and asked for further information and clarification regarding IAHA. We have to understand that the rest of the world really has no understanding of our two organizations and most often think that we have only one organization, thus IAHA or AHRA to them are the same organization; i.e., our Registering Authority. Thus they have no understanding or interest in the internal politics and problems of IAHA or AHRA. They are only concerned that member organizations follow the rules in the areas of registration, import/export, competition travel, etc. and how that affects the Arabian horse around the world.

In conclusion to this particular subject, I will say that IAHA leadership acted very inappropriately in the eyes of the rest of the world. Had Tom chosen to stay and participate, he would have been able to clarify misinterpretations of his dialog, had an extraordinary experience with people from all over the world, and would have gained knowledge in communicating and working on an international (world-wide) level. It is much different than the personal agendas and politics as usual we seem to experience here within our own borders. The two are worlds apart! Sorry couldn't resist that pun.

*** NOTE: IAHA did eventually merge with AHRA several years later, but at the time of this conference this was not an issue of consideration.**

The Rest of the WAHO Conference Including IAHA Rules in Conflict with WAHO Rules

Many exciting things are happening in WAHO. There are plans for a new building to not only house WAHO offices and eventual data base, but to include meeting rooms and also act as a museum for the Arabian horse on a world-wide basis.

Land sites are currently being looked at and preliminary architectural drawings are done. Next comes the raising of funding for this project. Brian Blake, Treasurer, will be working with Sheikh Tariq Abdul Hadi Al Qahtani of Saudi Arabia to raise funding. It is planned that funding be raised to not only complete the land purchase and building, but to have enough additional funding to invest as endowment to earn enough interest to pay taxes, maintenance, and other costs into perpetuity.

President Jay Stream reiterated the extreme importance of every registry's conducting parent verification, whether by blood typing or DNA. It is not mandatory by WAHO rules at this time, but strongly recommended. Out of 61 countries, only 8 do not currently require parent verification.

One very important discussion in general session was that WAHO is looking at the possibility of entering into some promotional activity for the Arabian horse on a world-wide basis. This, of course, is an area that would make IAHA's membership in WAHO even more important to the Arabian horse breeders and owners here in the US.

I think the most important information I picked up at this meeting which was not discussed in any formal manner on the floor, but was discussed with me during more casual one-on-one conversations during luncheons, the boat ride, while petting kangaroos, (what fun) etc. was that the WAHO rules that IAHA has been violating need to be changed, not only because they are rules that WAHO members must follow, but because of the tremendous impact not changing them will have on the future of the Arabian horse in the United States. These are not rules that have been deliberately broken by IAHA, but as the world around us changes over the years, IAHA rules put in place 40+ years ago have ended up in conflict in this particular case. As we all know, most IAHA rules have changed (sometimes from several to many times) to meet the needs of current times at Convention each year. But we still have a few that have not been challenged over the changing times and we must now address two of those.

The first rule which needs to be changed is that currently the IAHA Half/Anglo Arabian Registry Board is registering as Half Arabian those horses which are registered Purebred Arabians and accepted as Purebred Arabians by all WAHO registries around the world. IAHA's current rule states that it may not register any purebred as an Half/Anglo Arabian. However, if AHRA rejects registration of any purebred based upon their current policy, IAHA accepts that the rejected purebred is not a purebred and proceeds from there, because IAHA currently "only" recognizes AHRA/CAHR-registered or acceptable to be registered Purebreds. This means that these horses are purebreds but after being registered by IAHA become Half Arabians that compete with our true Half Arabians in all our competitions. WAHO rules guard Purebred Arabians from being registered as less than Purebred.

The second rule is tougher to address in light of all the "discussion" that has occurred over the past 4 years, but when corrected, will automatically correct the first problem as stated above. Now, hang on to your hats, everyone, because this has been very controversial based upon emotion and has been discussed and cussed to infinity. We now have to look at the definition of a purebred Arabian horse without the rose-colored glasses on and embrace the true picture (no matter how emotionally upsetting it might be to have to concede our "myths" are simply nowhere near reality) and face the practical aspect and the impact that will occur in the near future if we don't face that reality. We must change our rule that restricts competition in IAHA events to U.S.A. (AHRA) or Canadian (CAHR) registered or eligible-to-be-registered horses only, to at the very least include horses registered with the Purebred Arabian Horse Registry (PAHR) or to avoid having to make another change in the future make the change to include Purebred Arabians registered in any WAHO-member registry. It turns out most of the world's registries that were around before WAHO was formed are facing the same problem, because we all made rules to be sure only Purebreds would compete in Purebred competitions within each of our individual countries. Since that was before WAHO existed and before the days of easy travel, international competitions, etc., the obvious way to do this was to restrict entries to those registered with the one and only Purebred registry of each country or area. Today, many of these original registries now face changing the wording in their rules to accommodate today's totally different world. Now, let me explain why, because this is where the impact of not doing this could destroy the US Arabian horse in the near future as we enter into a very fast, daily changing and different world.

We can all recognize that our current market here in the US is pretty flat. We also see that our world is swiftly changing from one of isolated incidents of people selling Arabian horses and competing with Arabian horses on the international

level to swiftly moving into an era of "global" community of sales and competitions for our horses. (Gads, not only our horses, but our everyday life.) It is happening very quickly and I look to see international exchanges become as commonplace in the near future as is the fact that today we exchange horses and attend competitions over state lines as every-day occurrences, but that was very rarely done just 40 years ago. One of the offspring from a stallion I raised and sold went to Dubai to compete in the international endurance ride held there in 1998. I have since received many inquiries from around the world about my own breeding program and horses I have bred that are for sale. And here I sit out in the middle of the northern Mojave desert in California, a small breeder. But the world found me anyway. IAHA needs to be able to provide accessibility to all Arabian horses around the world to IAHA competitions. This will bring people from all around the world to our most visible market place, the show ring. On the other hand, encouraging and integrating these people and horses into our competitions exposes our horses to the world and will, I am sure, lead to more and more of our US horses not only going on to international competitions but also to previously unavailable exposure for selling our horses (shipped semen, etc.) to international markets. We have to be compatible with PAHR to do this.



One of the stallions shown during the presentation of Australian Champions at the Brisbane Show Grounds

Example: At this WAHO conference, an exhibition of Australian Arabian horses was presented to us at the Brisbane show grounds. Some of those horses caught the eye of people from the Middle East and were purchased right on the spot. This is happening more and more frequently.

Now, consider that the Paris champion mare this year is a 30-Maria descendent (descendents of 30-Maria are one of the bloodlines not accepted by the AHRA). I have not seen the mare in the flesh but am told by people who have that this is one of the most exquisite Arabians they have ever seen. This mare was purchased by people from Saudi Arabia before she left the show. This mare, under IAHA current rules, cannot be allowed to compete in our shows as a purebred Arabian. She is only eligible to be registered as an Half

Arabian and could then compete in Half Arabian classes. So, under our current rules, any offspring or future descendants, no matter how absolutely fantastic, would never be eligible to compete as a Purebred here in IAHA shows, would never be allowed into US breeding programs if the offspring were intended to be shown as Purebreds, etc.

The various horses (there are quite a few) excluded by AHRA from registration shuts down markets and breeding opportunities for us, whether it be exposing our own horses to the Saudis- or other world breeders (who wants to be the one to tell the Saudis- they cannot show their World Champion purebred Arabian mare in one of our shows), wanting to utilize any of this breeding to improve our own stock (whether it be physically or marketability), etc., etc. I will insert a personal observation here. If there are those that think the above World Champion mare is an exception I share with you my own personal experience. I was invited to the Argentina Nationals in 1996 to give a seminar on the western horse. I had the privilege of watching their National classes being judged by Mary Anne Grimmell. I saw many absolutely exquisite Arabians in those classes--dripping and oozing Arabian type, extremely correct legs, wonderful Arabian conformation, fantastic Arabian movement. When I looked up the pedigrees, guess what, folks. The best horses nearly all went back to the purebred mares of Argentina that are 30-Maria descendants. These horses would put most of the animals in our show ring to stooping when it comes to correctness of Arabian conformation, movement and type. So I am not surprised at the Paris champion mare's pedigree. This is just one example of what will happen in the future if we refuse to understand the true history of the origins of the Purebred Arabian horse and, thus, do not become part of the rest of the world because of our putting our heads in the sand and refusing to accept the truth.

Another example: There is a lady in the mid west who has raised 1 or 2 Arabian foals every 1 or 2 years. She has never sold one of her foals for more than \$2500.00. Not long ago, a gentleman from the Middle East was visiting in the area looking for Arabian horses to buy. He ended up coming to her farm, saw one of the Arabians she bred, wanted to buy it, and offered \$60,000.00 for the animal. This lady was ecstatic. They concluded the details of the sale until the final detail. The gentleman asked this lady if she would be responsible for taking care of all the paperwork for exportation from the US required by PAHR. The lady replied that **"we" only deal with AHRA, not PAHR**. The gentleman simply told her "then you do not deal with me," and walk away. End of sale and end of story.

The moral of these stories is that IAHA has to move forward into the future. Every Arabian breeder and owner in this country that has any problem with accepting Arabian horses that are registered Purebreds in any WAHO-member registry around the world must research and study the history of the Arabian horse, its origins, the truth regarding the mythical

tales we have all been brought up on and believed as gospel all these years (myself included-I am the original romantic), and realize that there is no truth to most of those tales. Yes, my bubble of romanticism was burst, too, when I started researching to find out for myself what in the world was going on when the AHRA/WAHO mess started, the proof was there in black and white. I have just become aware of more proof that has been uncovered and is being translated even as I write this. But, let's get back to the impact of the reality of today and what must be done to assure that the US Arabian horses don't become totally isolated from the rest of the world as the world changes around us at warp speed.

We have to face another reality. Unless every breeder registers every foal with PAHR in addition to AHRA, within 3 to 4



From left, Faisal Bin Mahbood Al Raeesi, Jay Stream (WAHO President, USA) Salem Suleiman Al Mahrooqy and Lt. Col. A. Shahwarzi, Delegates from Oman

generations those horses will be nearly impossible to export for sale or be eligible for entry in international competitions. Why? Because AHRA has not been recognized as the US WAHO registry for registration and/or competition purposes by the 60 other countries that are WAHO members (current number which is growing every year) since 1/1/98 (the date that AHRA membership ended) . Therefore, any Arabian foaled and registered with AHRA after that 1/1/98 date would have to be registered by PAHR (WAHO recognized US Registry as of 1/1/98) to be exported or eligible for international competitions. That first generation is not too difficult, in that if the dam and sire were AHRA registered before 1/1/98, only the offspring in question would have to go through the PAHR registration process. But think about the Arabian whose grand parents were foaled after 1/1/98 and never registered with PAHR. Then, that immediate

Arabian, its dam and sire, and their dams and sires would also have to go through the DNA testing, all owner signatures acquired, etc., etc. which adds up to 11 horses in 3 generations, 27 horses in 4 generations, 43 horses in 5 generations, and on and on. You can see where this can become an impossible task before very long and, if not corrected, will end up creating a situation where the vast majority of US-bred Arabian horses will no longer be available to the rest of the world.

I know I have gone into a great deal of detail and thrown a lot out to chew on, but the bottom line simply put is that PAHR and WAHO are extremely important to IAHA and its members in order to have our US Arabian horses not become totally isolated from the rest of the world in the not so distant future. Only a tiny number of our US Arabian horses whose owners have had the foresight to double register will be eligible for export and/or competition outside our borders. The rest of the world accepts all WAHO registered horses, which means as time goes by all the bloodlines of the horses not currently accepted under today's AHRA and IAHA rules will be infused throughout the world's horses. Where does that leave us? Not with the "only" group of Pure Arabians as I am sure some of those reading this will immediately think. Once you study and understand the reality of the actual origins of the Arabian horse, which are vastly removed from our romantic myths we all were raised with, you will also come to the conclusion that we must change with the times and face the reality of where our world is going. Clinging to myths and romantic ideas of the past will actually end up destroying the credibility of our US Arabian horses, which we all want to preserve. IAHA membership in WAHO is a vital artery to the ability for us to participate out in the rest of the world with our US Arabians and have our horses take their legitimate place among the Arabians of the rest of the world. In order to maintain that membership, however, back to square one--IAHA must change two of its existing rules.



Liz Salmon, USA, getting her tea at the animal park luncheon

These are the areas of import that I came away from this WAHO conference with and felt it imperative to share with you. The future of our US Arabians is at stake.

Now, back to the fun part, as mentioned before, the shopping in Australia was fantastic. The 2-hour boat trip to a lovely harbor, during which time we watched the Australian equivalent to our Kentucky Derby on the TV's set up around the boat, picked our horse, and placed bets then cheered our choice on, concluded in a scrumptious sea food dinner. I had the privilege of sitting at a table for 4 with Paulo Levy and his lovely wife Tienna from Brazil and a gentleman from Turkey for very pleasant dinner conversation.



Tienna and Paulo Levy of Brazil with Lorry Wagner

The day trip on Wednesday started with the park where we witnessed Australian stock work, first on horseback herding cattle including the use of the famous whip work and then the sheep dog working sheep. We were treated to a demonstration of how the boomerang is used. It really does come back, folks! Amazing! We watched a sheep being sheared. The highlight of that experience for me was when I had my picture taken with a darling koala bear and got to scratch its back while the picture was being taken, then went in with a bunch of kangaroos, emus, and other Australian wildlife. The kangaroos were so gentle we fed them pellets and they very

carefully nibbled them from the palms of our hands. Now, the emus-that's another story. I wouldn't call them gentle. Those little devils would grab the pellet and if there was a bit of flesh pinched up too, oh well. And.....my friend Liz Salmon, she convinced me I had to join a group that was dancing to the Bushwhacker Band and we had a good time making fools of ourselves in front of the entire group sitting at lunch. Hmm, second childhood? I haven't done that since I was truly a child. My excuse caught up in the excitement of the WAHO crowd.



Lorry, feeding very friendly kangaroo, after we had observed a sheep shearing demonstration. Wow!

We then finished the day at the Brisbane show grounds where a presentation of some wonderful horses was orchestrated for us. The conference ended with the Gala Dinner the last night. After dinner, we were treated to entertainment by a group of Aborigines presenting some of their cultural dances to us. It was fascinating.

The reality is that the experience of attending one of these conferences is indescribable. It truly is almost impossible to describe the atmosphere that prevails, where people from all over the world gather in the name of love for the Arabian horse. It is one of those things you just have to personally experience--no one can convey the depth of the experience to another. There are no political stand offs/floor fights/etc. I have now had the privilege of

attending several of these WAHO conferences. By the end of each one, I have had the feeling of having been welcomed with open arms into a very large and happy family. I have made very good friends from around the world. One of those is Mary Gharagozlou of Iran, a wonderful lady who is the daughter of a Bedouin father of Persian descent and American mother. Mary has spent hours with me telling me about Bedouin life and Arabian horses. Listening to Mary is an absolutely incredible and once-in-a-lifetime experience. At the age of 74, Mary has experienced Arabian horses from the desert sands of Bedouin life (including raids for particular mares when she was a little girl on which her Grandfather took her) to being in charge of the royal Arabian horses of Iran. I dearly love her. My perspective of the rest of the world has been so wonderfully broadened, enriched and educated. It is an absolutely incredible experience.

One of the "unwritten" rules, so-to-speak, is that no attendee, whether delegate or observer, is here for "commercial or self-serving" purposes. There is no promotion of stallions, ranches, etc. The conference is based on discussion and resolution of issues such as transporting horses between registries, improving parentage verification via blood-typing and/or DNA, issuing passports to horses who are competing in shows or racing to make the paperwork of entering and exiting countries for this competition much easier to do, and things of this nature. These are areas that benefit the Arabian horse breed as a whole and bring our Arabian horse world closer together. Everything is so positive and based upon making this world a better place for our Arabian horses. I had many, many delegates and observers (people who attended but were not delegates) come up to me individually and ask me questions about IAHA



Charming Australian kangaroo with "little roo" peeking from her pouch!



**l to r, Lorry Wagner
and Liz Salmon from
the USA at the Gala
Dinner ending the
Conference**

because they are so interested in what IAHA does. For example, a gentleman from Kuwait asked me about how he could find the show record of an Arabian horse that was purchased and imported into his country from the US. I have his card and will be contacting IAHA to find that show record and send it to him.

When the conference was over and I was saying goodbye to those wonderful friends I have made through WAHO as they were leaving for all those destinations around the world, it gave me the feelings I always have when the show is over, the decorations are being packed away and the horses are loading up to go home. I always have a bit of a "let down" feeling. But, I will also have those wonderful memories of Australia to add to my memories of other Conference I have had the privilege of attending, including Bahrain in 1998, that will stay with me always. Those memories come back so clearly as I have been privileged to share my time at this conference with all of you.

I left Australia with such a completely comfortable feeling of realizing the Arabian horse is loved and revered around the world. This world of ours is really shrinking into a place where we are becoming a global family, for lack of a better description. Let us take heed and remain a part of that family for the sake of our Arabian horses.

I arrived home struggling with luggage full of wonderful items from Australia, including the famous Akubra hat for my husband. He loves it. I just could not resist showing him off here wearing the hat, and beside him is the cute little spaniel dog that somebody dropped off here while I was gone. We have now adopted each other and she is the official "ranch pooch."



Larry and Jewel Welcome Me Home!